Agriculture—1925
Improvement &c.

Ar Kansas.

BARBECUE FOR TENANTS.

Negro Farmers of Yancey Plantation Get Prizes for Best Crops.

MARIANNA, Ark., July 3.—The negro tenants on the plantations owned by Yancey & Co., of Marianna, were ordered an old fashioned barbecue today. All work was suspended on these plantations until after the Fourth of July. Speeches, barbecue, cold drinks a plenty, singing and dancing made the day an eventful one for all present. A blind negro preacher was in attendance and during intermissions from dancing he would lead the happy throng in religious chants.

Ninety dollars in prizes were awarded to the tenants having the best crops. R. E. Bryant, formerly county agent for the negroes in this county made a talk, his subject being let your buckets down where you are, the keynote of his advice was that these present would be wise to stay here in the south.

C. E. Yancey, J. B. Daggett and C. E. Daggett the hosts on this occasion invited a number of the business men of Marianna out for the day and together they went over the plantation seeing one of the best crops in this section.

Cotton Farmer
12-5-25
Scott,
Bolivar County Miss.

BUCK GOLDEN STANDING IN COTTON PATCH

Mr. Harrison Golden, of Triumph Plantation and who is better known as Buck Golden, moved to the Triumph Plantation some two years ago from near Altheirmer, Arkansas. The Editor had an interview with him the other day while Buck was at the Scott gin awaiting his turn to gin his last bale of cotton. He and his people have succeeded wonderfully in gathering his crop in spite of the extreme bad weather. He and his three children, Tullie, Ira and Leola, have picked without any hired help twenty five bales of cotton.

Made Good Every Since He moved To Triumph.

He says he has made quite a success every since he has been on Triumph.

Last year he paid for two as fine mules as are ordinarily wrapped up in mule hide and then cleared a considerable sum of money.

Takes Care of His Mules

Sad as it may seem but what we need is the gospel truth about ourselves and then when the looking glass is turned on us let us see the spots and wipe them off, instead of swearing they are not there. But few of our folks will take care of their stock. A mule that should give good service for at least twenty years,is put out of commission in around five crops. This is not true as to Buck. It is to be doubted whether the company has as good a pair of mules or as well kept mules as Buck's mules. Another thing Buck is proud of his mules. One thing about Buck there is no use of a fellow who has never had nor never will have a slice of mule hide coming to Buck to borrow or hire either or both of the mules, for he knows if a man has never had sense enough or energy enough to have a mule of his own if he needed one, a mighty sorry piece of furniture for him to trust his mules with. He knows that in case of damages to the mule or death of the mule, the only pay he can get or hope to get is "a mouthful of sorry" and "I am gwine ter pay you, if I hab ter work my life time" If judging by the amount he pays or attempts to pay his like time is amazingly short. A man won't trust some fellows with as much as one dollar and yet he will trust the same fellow with a four hundred dollar mule. The same thing applies to our people trusting their automobiles with worthless people. It is better to make them mad by not loaning your mule or your car, than for them to make you mad by injuring your mule or breaking up your automobile. The trifling people are a mill stone around the necks of our people and unless there is a halt put to them they are going to destroy the race.

Agriculture - 1925.
Improvement of

Mississippi.

Jackson, Miss., News
AUG 6 - 1925

NEGRO CONFERENCE IS CONCLUDED HERE

Teachers Gathering Is Success; Assembly Hears Address

The State Conference of Colored Teachers of agriculture came to an end Wednesday after a successful three-day session held at the Smith Robinson school in North Jackson.

The meeting was attended by about 30 negro teachers of agriculture from different sections of the state. H. O. Sargent of Washington, D. C., federal agent for southern colored agriculturists, and F. J. Hubbard, state director of vocational agriculture, were present during the session.

D. L. Williams, supervisor of vocational agriculture, delivered an inspiring address during the conclusion of the conference.

Resolutions submitted at the close of the meeting by the committee appointed for this purpose were as follows:

"We, your Committee on Resolutions, representing Smith-Hughes Agricultural teachers in negro schools in conference assembled, submit the following resolutions:

"Whereas, our state director Mr. J. F. Hubbard, and Mr. H. O. Sargent, our regional director, together with Mr. D. L. Williams and Prof. P. S. Bowles, state supervisor and teacher-trainer, respectively, have rendered invaluable service to us during this conference in broadening our vision and inspiring us with a better zeal and scope of our work,

"Be it resolved that we tender them our heartfelt thanks for the interest manifested in us.

"Be it further resolved that we as a body, go forth with an exalted intention to show our appreciation for interest shown by going to our various fields of labor doing the things with courage and determination to make our communities more prosperous and happy along industrial, social and economic lines.

"Whereas, this body of teachers has agreed to stand together and put over one great state program, be it resolved that we work together fraternally as a body of vocational teachers, carefully observing the code of ethics in our teaching career. Be it further resolved that we extend to Prof. W. H. Lanir, superintendent of colored city schools, and the people of the city of Jackson our sincere thanks for the cordial hospitality extended to us as a body.

G. W. SIMMONS, Chairman,
E. A. HARNESS
M. F. NICHOLS
ROBERT B. ROSS
J. H. McMILLAN, Secretary.

"Wes further pledge ourselves to carry out yearly programs as laid down by our white vocational teachers in this state.

Agriculture - 1925.
Improvement of.

New York.

NEW YORK CITY TIMES
MAY 14, 1925

Thanks Cotton Exchange for Aid.

George W. Carver, professor of chemistry at Tuskegee Institute, was one of the visitors at the New York Cotton Exchange yesterday. Mr. Carver told Edward E. Bartlett Jr., President of the exchange, that the negro cotton farmers of the South appreciate deeply what the members of the exchange have done in fighting the boll-weevil.

Agriculture - 1925
Improvement of.

Oklahoma.

Okla. City Okla. Farmer-Stockman
3/15/25

Negroes Good Farmers

SOME of the best farming I've seen in many a day is being done by Fred McCann, negro farmer in Kingfisher county, Okla.

He bought a sandy farm at war prices, and like others who bought at the time paid too much. But unlike many others he has his as good as paid for and has put some expensive improvements on it to boot.

McCann had rented another farm for 15 years straight and saved some money. Probably that is the first reason he got ahead and now owns a good farm. He didn't move around looking for a pot of gold at the rainbow's end; he stayed on one place and dug the gold out of the ground.

When he bought the farm he is now on, he continued to rent that same farm. On that farm he has raised wheat, corn and oats. On his own farm he has raised cotton and cowpeas. Here is illustrated a fine point in farm management. McCann has used rented land to raise most of his crops. At the same time he has been building up his own land. His farm was so run down and abused that had he depended on that he could have raised on it, he very likely would have failed in paying for it.

Straw Good for Sandy Land

After buying his sandy 160 McCann fenced the whole thing hog tight. The wind had blown out spots of sand down to the clay. He hauled load after load of straw and filled these holes. They now make far better crops than the part of the field that didn't blow. He is still hauling straw and what manure he can get as a means of building up the general fertility of the whole farm.

The first of October McCann had 60-odd hogs running about on the farm. He assured me that not a single one of 57 shoats had ever tasted a single ear of corn. At the time they had just finished eating off a field of some five acres of cowpeas, and were then running in another field of 18 acres of cowpeas adjoining which was a field of seven acres of watermelons.

The five-acre field of peas was sown to wheat the first of October. It furnished pasture for the hogs this winter. Thirty shoats will be marketed soon and 27 more in June. Near the barn are big stacks of cowpea and cane hay. The cellar is full of potatoes and canned goods.

McCann made a little more than 10 bales of cotton on his home place and had corn and oats to sell above his own needs, besides the hogs, wheat and cotton. He can pay out on his home when necessary.

"Folks told me I couldn't make a living on this farm when I bought it. But I have, and believe I will soon have as good farm as is in the neighborhood," McCann told me.

Some More Good Farming

South of McCann in another neighborhood, W. C. King owns a quarter section of tight land. He has been a wheat farmer until lately when he realized something had to be done to build back the fertility of the soil. He is going the dairy route. He did not rush out and simply buy up a few cows, however. Instead he first bought a good Holstein bull, one from a cow which produced 33 pounds of butter in seven days, along with two of his neighbors. When they could no longer use that bull eight farmers, all colored, bought another bull from a cow which as a two-year-old produced 412 pounds of butterfat and 10,879 pounds of milk in 360 days.

Furthermore, this same group of farmers own their own thresher and do their threshing by swapping work. The thresher they now own is their third one.

John A. Garnett, along with some other good farming, has a three-acre apple orchard from which he has sold an average of $800 worth of apples the past several years. He sprays his orchard three or more times a year. He has a large concrete cellar, stores all his apples and sells only during the winter as folks come after them.

Another example of colored farmers in Kingfisher county who have done well is George Hicks who was a janitor before he started farming. After renting a few years he bought an 160-farm. When land was booming during the war he bought another farm and has since paid for it. During most of this time he had no children to help him.

Other colored farmers in Kingfisher county have done as well. Of the total number in the county 80 percent own their homes. Some are mortgaged, many are not. No colored farmer lost his farm during the past hard years.—C. R.

Agriculture—1923
Improvement of.

Virginia.

He Hitched His Wagon to a STAR PUPIL

By
ELIZABETH H. HARTSHORNE

"Big Ben" Sizemore, who acquired a wife and ambition simultaneously—and promptly made good

Below are two staunch aides who are helping Big Ben prove to his friends that he can make money farming

HE IS a Virginia Negro. At forty-five he couldn't get credit for so much as a sack of flour. But that didn't worry him. *Nothing* worried him. Somehow, by doing odd jobs for the neighbors at sixty cents a day, he managed to live. When he wasn't busy he was "jes' futterin' roun'" or peacefully dozing in the doorway of his tiny log cabin near Averett, Va.

And then "Big Ben" Sizemore married. He married a star pupil of the pioneer Negro worker in Averett County—George D. Wharton, a graduate of Hampton Institute and a teacher, preacher and farm demonstrator who had taught the colored people of the county how to farm and how to live.

After that "Big Ben" changed. Dozing days were over. He went out of the odd-job business. And he went into the business of getting ahead. He became a farmer. This was in 1914. By 1919, he had stock, outbuildings and $2,000 in cash. The money he used to make a first payment on his land—sixty-four acres in the heart of the Averett district. In 1920 he built a large, modern two-story house, on which he paid $2,500. Within the next two years he had completed all payments on both house and land.

To-day "Big Ben" is specializing in blooded pigs. His cattle are high-grade Jerseys. And he is carrying the diversified farming idea—taught him by his wife and Wharton—just a little further than anyone else in the community.

"Big Ben" is now one of three farmers who own a 320-tract of land which, under old plantation methods of cultivation, averaged net returns of about $300 a year.

In one boom year alone that land brought the triumvirate a cash return of $15,800!

The Hampton-Tuskegee idea? Ask "Big Ben." He's one of thousands who know.

The only cows on the Sizemore farm are high-grade Jerseys

Big Ben used to call this home. But his cabin days are no more

Agriculture — 1925.
Improvement of.

Texas.

NEGROES ENLISTED IN FARM IMPROVEMENT

(Lincoln News Service.)

TROUP, Tex., April 20.—Smith County Negro farmers are being enlisted in this county's 10-year farm improvement campaign. Leading in carrying the farm campaign plans into every negro community in the county is G. W. Crouch, colored agricultural agent for Smith County. The series of meetings which started a few days ago will end Thursday evening, April 30. The Negro farmers are being addressed by prominent white speakers, who are encouraging soil building and all around better farming among Smith County Negro farmers.

Agriculture – 1925.
Improvement of.

Mississippi.

HELPING THE NEGRO

Through a business league representing the colored citizens of Natchez a meeting is being arranged for the benefit of colored citizens engaged in agricultural pursuits, to be held at Washington, Friday, April 10, when a number of speakers will deliver brief talks on pertinent subjects.

It is a good plan.

Words of advice and encouragement coming from friendly sources, are always helpful.

There are many things the negro can do for himself, once given the right point of view. His best opportunities are here. Negroes who have gone north have found that to be true, and it is a good sign when leaders of the race here interest themselves in practical plans to help negroes make better us of their opportunities in this section.

In the neighboring county of Jefferson much good is being accomplished in efforts to encourage colored people to make better use of their opportunities in this section and we can do the same thing in Adams county.

The meeting to be held at Washington ought to result in much gooo for those who are to participate in it and it may open the way for still further efforts along the same line.

COLORED SCHOOL PRINCIPAL TEACHING RACE BY EXAMPLE.

Since he was made principal of the Maion County Training School for the negro race of this county, Prof. L. F. Bowles has made a determined effort to encourage his race to cultivate larger and better gardens for home use and for sale of vegetables if a superabundance is produced, and for the establishment of a demonstration "truck patch" at the school, but his undertaking met little or no encouragement, and he decided this year to show his people what could be accomplished with a little timely activity in a truck patch. For more than a month his garden hes been supplying not only his family but a number of neighbors with crisp, toothsome vegetables, and his cabbage patch has brought him many dimes from "the white folks," as it was more than a week earlier than that of those who were especially engaged in the trucking business. Bowles believes in earning at least a part of his living by the sweat of the brow, even though he is principal of one of the best negro schools in South-Mississippi.

Meeting to Help Negroes Is Held In Washington

NATCHEZ, April 11—(Special)—The first of a series of meetings to be held in Adams county was largely attended at Washington. It was a representative gathering of negro men and women in agricultural pursuits in Adams and Jefferson counties.

The meeting was held under the auspices of the Natchez Negro Business League and is accepted by negro leaders and others as marking a new period in the lives of negro farmers in this section. E. L. Hamilton, president of the league and Dr. R. W. Harrison, secretary, prime factors in the movement, were highly pleased with the Washington meeting and will plan and announce the second conference at a early date.

The meeting was addressed by a number of white citizens, including President Ben Stockner of the Natchez Chamber of Commerce; J. B. Myrick, secretary; S. J. Greer county agent; Judge L. C. Marshall of Washington; Maurice Joo, food expert and Ike Zerkowsky, planter.

Speeches were also made by Dr. R. W. Harrison, who stated the purpose of the meeting; H. D. Ford, colored agricultural agent for Jefferson county who discussed farm problems from a practical point of view; G. W. Brumfield, who spoke of the negro's problems from an educational standpoint; E. L. Hamilton, who outlined the relations between tenant and landlord; Green L. Sanders, who told why he remained on the farm and an address by W. H. Holtzclaw, president of the Utica Normal and Industrial Institute, one of the leading colored educational institutions of Mississippi.

These talks covered a wide range of subjects of interest to negro farmers and the community generally and showed a great amount of thought on the part of the speakers.

Sounding the Alarm—The Negro Race In Danger

Rex, Miss., May 25th, 1925.
Whitehall Plantation.

Editor Cotton Farmer:

Please allow me space for a few words. I read your brief notice of the steps being taken to move 5,000 Hungarian families from Illinois to Mississippi. It has not been long since 5000 Negro families left Mississippi for Illinois. Many of the Negro families have left Illinois for other untried fields of labor. Some have returned to Mississippi and others are still trying to make out. Among them are men I personally know and they wish to their lucky stars that they were back in Dixie. I am taking their word for that. But what I want to impress upon the members of our large family of cotton growers on the 18 plantations of the Delta & Pine Land Company, better known as the "Syndicate," with Scott, Lamont, Rex and Eutaw, as centers, is this: WHY SHOULD WE WISH TO EXCHANGE OUR SUNNY CLIME, FERTILE LANDS THAT OUR FATHERS CLEARED AND DITCHED AND WENT THROUGH ALL THE HARDSHIPS INCIDENT TO THE OPENING UP OF A NEW COUNTRY. THEIR DRINKING WATER WAS OUT OF THE CREEKS AND BAYOUS AND THEY HAD TO FIGHT BACK THE NATIVE WILD BEAST AND MANY OTHER RISKS AND HARDSHIPS AND OUR OCCUPATION AND HOMES WITH HUNGARIANS, ITALIANS, JAPS OR WHAT NOT TO GO INTO MILLS, FACTORIES AND SWEAT SHOPS WHERE WE CAN NEVER BECOME SUFFICIENTLY EFFICIENT TO HOLD OUR OWN AGAINST OTHER CLASSES

I know there are thousands of us who would never consider such a change, and yet there is danger that we may be forced to do so. Those winter quarter croppers that you so often tell us about are now in the heydey of their glory. They have been cared for all the winter and spring. Work time is now here. He owes for the very necessities of life that were given him and her on his and her word that they would make a crop. They now draw their limit in cash on Saturday and Monday morning he is many miles away, laughing about what a smart trick he played on the manager. This is the element among us who consitute our real danger. They are a menace to our well-being. We owe it to ourselves, our wives and children to expose these people in time. We can always spot them before the manager can and to expose them, spoil their plans is not "talking to white folks," but a measure of protection.

As this tribe increases so will the desire of landlords increase to look out a more dependable class of tenants and day laborers for these fertile lands. When that which is perfect shall come that which is in shall be done away

Clip this article and ask your pastor to review it for you.

Yours for honor among negroes,

E. E. ELLSWORTH.

NEGROES IN CLOVER.

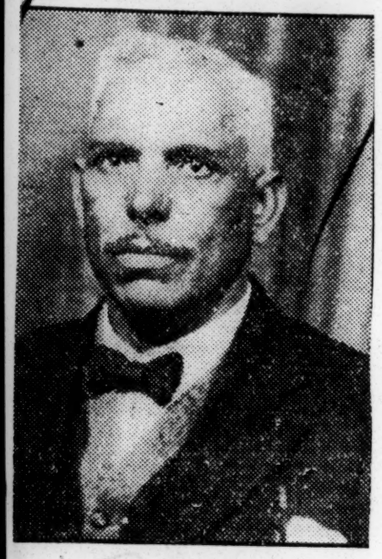
Prosperity In Trucking Area Not Confined To White Farmers.

CRYSTAL SPRINGS, Miss., July 3.—The prosperity in this community is not confined altogether to successful efforts on the part of white people alone, as a great many negroes who have been in the trucking game this year, have made a great deal of money. One prominent truck grower settled with three of his negro tenants, Thursday afternoon and to one he paid as his part after all the expenses had been deducted, the sum of $1,100. To another one, after deducting all the expenses, he paid the net sum of $1,400. To a third, after deducting all the expenses, he paid $800, making a total of $3,300 that he paid these three tenants as their part of this year's crop. In giving out these checks, he submitted to each negro the following paternal advice: 'Here is the result of your work in the truck crop. Go and buy you a Ford car and spend the balance of the money as soon as possible so you will be fit to go to work when I need you in the fall." It may be stated that in most instances, the advice in reference to the Ford car has been taken b-- most of the truckers, who were not previously provided with a car, as more Ford cars have been sold here the past 30 days than have probably been sold in any other section of Mississippi.

Agriculture – 1925.
Improvement of.

Illinois.

A Farm Leader



C. S. MITCHELL

"Maplebrook Double," a two-eared corn bred by C. S. Mitchell, proprietor of Maplebrook Farm, Gatesville, North Carolina was entered in the National Seed Corn Show at Chicago, Ill., held by the Sears Roebuck Agricultural Foundation, March 2-7, 1925, and won in the Gates County contest, First Prize and County Sweepstakes. 3-16-25

Mr. Mitchell is a graduate of Hampton Institute and has been a demonstration agent for thirteen years. He is now Field Representative of the North Carolina Cotton Growers Cooperative Marketing Association. He is a successful farmer and a respected citizen. He has a good eight-room home. His wife is a leading poultry raiser and they are schooling their children.

Agriculture – 1925.
Improvement of.

Indiana.

ONROE, WIS. GAZ. JOURNAL

MARCH 9, 1925

COLORED FARMER HONORED BY STATE.

The state of Indiana and the town of Tell City recently honored a colored tenant farmer for growing more than 100 bushels of corn peracre on a 5-acre plat. As 1924 was the hardest year in more than a decade to achieve such a mark, and only twenty farmers in the entire Hoosier state won the Purdue University gold medal for such production, the honor is all the more significant. Deep plowing, frequent cultivation, the application of fertilizer and the planting of good seed with an accurate planter that put the required number of grains in every hill all helped the industrious colored man win such a high mark, says the Research Department of the National Association of Farm Equipment Manufacturers.

Agriculture - 1925
Improvement of.

Georgia.

PROGRESS AND SUCCESS OF MANY NEGRO FARMERS

By D. K. YOUNG

Brooks county has a great many negro farmers of whom they have reason to be proud. We often ask ourselves the question why so many of our negro farmers are leaving the farms for the northern manufacturing centers and how can we stop this migration. We all admit that this migration has rather seriously handicapped us in our farming operations throughout south Georgia. Though a great many of our best negroes have gone we still have with us a great many negro farmers whom we should encourage in their efforts.

Along the Dry Lake road in this county there are several families of excellent negro farmers. The writer has had occasion to come in very close contact with one colored farmer of that section whom he would hold up as an example of progressiveness.

George Spencer owns his farm and is making a desperate effort to come back and George is coming back. George says that one year ago he owed about $2,600 on his farm and it looked as though he would never pay up. But last year he went to work with all his might and with determination that he would make a good crop and some money. George planted cotton, sweet potatoes, sugar cane, and peanuts for his money crops. From his eleven acres of cotton he sold about six bales, his sweet potato crop was good, and when he was ready to sell he called on County Agent Stratford, and through him he secured a good price for his potatoes, and then after selling his peanuts and some syrup George was able to pay off $1,300 of his indebtedness, or one half of the amount that he owed on his farm. A record which but few of us can boast of.

After doing so well last year, George has taken hold anew, and says that he expects to pay off the other $1,300 on that farm this year. He has been to see the county agent two or three times already, and says that he expects to use him this year. George is trying to save his land too. He asked me to assist him in running some terraces which I did. George realizes that in order to make good yields on his crops and to make money farming that he must maintain the fertility of his lands instead of allowing them to wash into the streams and low places.

George is trying to use a balance cropping system, too. He is planting as his cash crop this year, cotton, peanuts, sweet potatoes, sugar cane, and hogs, with all the corn and old fashionel runner peanuts that it will take to fatten his hogs and to feed his work stock. George has corn to sell now, too. He asked me just a few days ago to sell for him about 250 bushels of corn from last year's crop. George is using a high grade fertilizer for his cotton and expects to use calcium arsenate to control the boll weevil. He has already consulted with the county agent about the application of the calcium arsenate, and George says that he expects to follow instruction to the letter, and if he does we believe that he will make a good cotton crop.

This is the type of negro farmers that we need more of in Brooks county and south Georgia. They are the type of farmers that we want to encourage. George will pay off the balance of that farm loan because he has faith in his ability to do it, faith in Brooks county and because he is willing to learn. George is what the writer calls a progressive farmer. He is willing to work; he is conserving the fertility of his soils; and is taking advantage of all the resources and advantages placed at his disposal for better equipping himself for the job that he is undertaking. Let's encourage him and all others who are trying to do likewise.

There are others among the colored farmers who are making great progress and who deserve recognition and the Free Press will carry stories from time to time about their progress and success.

Hastings Is Puzzled By New Movement And Speaks Out Plainly

Editor Constitution: I have several things that have been accumulating in my system for the past few weeks and am unloading them on you. I know that you have a whole-hearted, unselfish desire to see Georgia put on the basis its potential resources justify.

News stories have appeared recently in The Constitution and other Georgia papers suggesting the raising of a fund of greater or less amount to advertise Georgia. The best of intentions are back of these purposes. [illegible] than J. T. Holleman, George Brown and Moultrie Sessoms, but with all due respect and they are all my friends, I don't believe they realize the underlying facts of this whole situation. 4-14-25

I have lived in and done business in Georgia for 26 years. My particular line of business has naturally brought me in direct contact with Georgia's farm situation and its problems. Through our business we have contact with nearly 100,000 Georgia farmers as well as with nearly 400,000 farmers in other southern states where the farm problems are similar to those in Georgia.

I have tried to study our farm problems both sanely and sympathetically and have tried to help solve some of these problems constructively as opportunity afforded. This has not been done through any philanthropic motive. Rather it has seemed to me to be "enlightened selfishness." The better the financial condition on the farm, the higher the social and educational levels the better customers for my business to serve.

It is my honest and candid opinion that attempting at this time to spend any considerable amount of money to advertise Georgia generally for farm settlers would be almost like pouring money down a rat hole. We have a special crop opportunity like tobacco to advertise to tobacco-growing sections, but with the exception of the relatively few counties where diversified farming coupled up with one or more phases of the live stock industry has become settled practice we have absolutely nothing to attract the out-of-state man who wants to really farm.

My business spends from $125,000 to $150,000 per year in various forms of advertising. If I have learned anything in the forty-odd years in a business in which advertising necessarily plays such a large part, it is that to make advertising pay the advertiser must be able to deliver goods and service that will attract, please and satisfy the customer.

Barring those relatively few counties where the Georgia association farm program has been put into effect, had the backing of the local banking and business community and become settled farm practice, there are mighty few counties in Georgia that have anything attractive to offer a new settler who wants to do real farming.

The appearance of the average Georgia farm, with the unpainted home, the tumble-down shacks for stable, laborer or tenant, the washed-out fields, the scanty yielding crops, etc., give the lie to every statement we might make in any advertising campaign. Lands are not usually sold sight unseen and the appearance of most of our farms would queer the sale. I know and most Georgians know that these partly exhausted lands, brought to a condition of semi-bankruptcy by continuous cotton cropping can be brought back by intelligent handling in a relatively short time, but the prospective settler doesn't.

Suppose a prospect is brought here in response to advertising. He is interested in general farming, good pastures, cows and dairying, hogs, sheep, poultry, etc., and the crops to feed them on. Cotton, tobacco, watermelons, sweet potatoes, sugar cane, pecans, etc., don't mean a thing to him. Mr. Real Estate Agent takes him out to show him a farm. If under cultivation at all it is a cotton patch, exclusively or nearly so.

Mr. Prospect, say from Kentucky, Indiana or Missouri, begins to ask about hogs, or dairy or beef cows, corn, hay and forage crops and what market there is for same, what the attitude of the local banker will be towards loans against diversified production, and all the natural questions that a sane common-sense farm prospect would ask.

The real estate man and the prospect drive down the road. On the way the prospect is assured that the cows, hogs, poultry, the generality of diversified crops, etc., can be grown profitably in Georgia. They come to John Smith's farm. It is a cotton patch. Ditto Jim Brown's and Tom Jones' and so on down the road. Can the prospect be blamed for being skeptical and saying, "If all these things can be grown successfully and profitably in Georgia, why in hell ain't your own people doing it?" This slightly profane quotation is no invention of mine. Prospects have said it many a time and thought it thousands of times.

Why bury our heads like the proverbial ostrich? Are we courageous enough to face real facts? Georgia, since civil war days, has steadily produced cotton at a loss to the producer. In the process there has been a steady depletion of natural soil fertility. The advent of the weevil found us with the generality of our soils in a sort of semi-bankrupt condition. Under the circumstances it was no wonder that there was farm abandonment, not only in Georgia but the other cotton states as well.

We face a situation here in Georgia requiring a complete readjustment and reorganization of our farm system. Until this is done there can be no reasonable degree of permanent prosperity either on the farm or in our towns and cities. Few realize the enormity of the job. It means changing the life-time habits of two million or more people. It cannot be done in one or three or five years. We have got to get down to a long, hard, steady pull. These farm folks cannot be driven into it or even led into it by city or town men whom they have no confidence in. The local business interests in the country trading towns must "about face" and begin to help the farm folks constructively instead of blocking the way out of what has been for all practical purposes a condition of economic slavery.

During the 26 years I have lived here there has been a very considerable procession of organizations formed to "boost" Georgia and bring in outside people. Up to 1920 none of them succeeded. None of them had any clear idea of what they wanted to do or how to do it. It had my part in them as well as did many others. We were all blind to basic conditions, just as most of our people are blind to them today. In 1920 the Georgia association was formed and for the first time Georgia had an organization with a sane, common-sense program that was a winner. It was largely officered and directed by men from the country districts who knew the needs of the country districts.

Coming into existence just at the beginning of the great financial depression in 1920; hamstrung from the very beginning because of lack of proper financial support; blamed for an abortive attempt to advertise Georgia that it was in no wise responsible for, yet it has secured favorable publicity for Georgia, that, if it could have been bought, (which it could not) would have cost many times the amount that can be obtained for advertising at this time.

The Georgia association has this past year, with a fund of about $17,000 carried on diversified and live stock organization work in some 30 or more Georgia counties and brought in, directly and indirectly, some 500 farm families and got them satisfactorily settled in those counties that have got well on the way toward real and permanent farm prosperity. Now, if reports be true, comes a proposal on the part of some of Georgia's financial interests to junk the Georgia association, appropriate its plans and general program and start out on an ambitious adventure handled by a hand-picked lot of men who do not know, except in a most superficial way, the needs of the situation to be met and who have not the confidence of the people sought to be influenced.

I am puzzled by this reported new move. There has been, so far as I know, no criticism of the accomplishments of the Georgia association, in fact the praise has been lavish and wonder expressed that there could be such great results with so little expenditure. This looks first like an effort to kill the Georgia association, its prestige and the confidence the country people of Georgia have in it, through attempted discrediting by withdrawal of financial support; second kidnaping most of the Georgia association's farm and land settlement program.

What's the answer? Does some one or more folks want a job or jobs that they can't get now? Is it another one of these moves we are so familiar with, starting organizations and putting men at the head of them to graduate later into some political position? Or is it a plain case of a well-intended but entirely mistaken effort on the part of men honestly seeking to put Georgia on a better basis? H. G. HASTINGS.

Atlanta, Ga., April 13, 1925.

VALDOSTA, GA. Times

JUN 20 1925

NEGRO FARMERS IN COOK

U. S. Department of Commerce Issues Report on Farm Conditions

Atlanta, Ga., June 20.—A total of 1,180 farms were being operated in Cook County on January 1, 1925

as compared with a total of 1,223 for the same date in 1920, according to the 1925 farm census taken by the United States Department of Commerce.

The total value of the farms in 1925 was given as $3,504,993 as against $3,828,591 in 1920. The value of the building this year was listed as $637,208 as against $976,861 in 1920. The total value of both farms and buildings in 1925 was given as $4,142,201 as compared with $4,805,452 four years ago.

Of the total of 1,180 farms in Cook county this year, the census shows that 995 are operated by white farmers and 185 by negroes. In 1920 of the 1,223 farms, 951 were operated by white and 272 by negro farmers.

The total land in all of the farms amounts in 1925 to 125,694 acres as compared with 113,913 acres in 1920.

The principal crops of Cook county are given as corn, hay peanuts, tobacco and cotton.

In 1924 a total of 21,660 acres of corn was planted as compared with 15,980 acres in 1920; a total of 2,266 of hay planted last year as against 3,222 acres in 1920; 1,981 acres of tobacco planted last year, and 343 acres in 1920.

"IS GEORGIA SLIPPING?"

(From Johnstown (Pa) Democrat)

A friend of ours has been visiting in Georgia. He reports that the state is slipping. Agriculture is going back, not ahead. Manufacture is losing ground. Business is having a hard time of it. All of this would be regrettable if it were inevitable. Since it is not inevitable, it is tragic.

For, according to our informant, Georgia is not economically unsound. It is suffering from mental maladies. It is the victim, first of all, of "festitis." It has become almost a religious observance to speak of everything which Georgia possesses as the best. As a result the people have become smug and complacent. They actually believe they are getting ahead when they are losing ground. No one in Georgia dares criticize any local institution.

Georgia agriculture is without vision. If traffic at the border were interrupted, Georgia would starve to death. People in Georgia have not yet learned the value of the cow, the pig and the hen. They do not know that the farmer who can feed himself is in better shape to fight the boll weevil than the one who must buy at the village store every egg and every pound of meat he eats. Georgia agriculture refuses to recognize the fact that the "world do move." It pins its faith to cotton, although Georgia is essentially a live stock country.

The same situation prevails as far as manufacture is concerned. Mills and methods are behind the times. Yet they are always the "best."

The second malady with which Georgia is afflicted is "bankeritis."

It is the bankers who are largely responsible for the fact that Georgia is a one-crop state. Before a land-owner can diversify his crop he must see his banker. Always the banker says "no." By saying so, he keeps the farmer always on the edge of ruin. The Georgia bankers actually seem to believe that if agriculture once became prosperous the financiers would be in trouble. A typical Georgia financier actually regards it as a sort of personal affront when a farmer gets out of debt or pays his mortgage.

The Georgia banker is equally paternal when he is talking to the manufacturer. It is a case of thumbs down when the question of new equipment is raised. As a result some of the bankers are waking up to find that they have a lot of worn-out farms and worn-out factories on their hands. But for all that, everything in Georgia is the "best."

COLUMBIA, GA. CHRONICLE

JUN 18 1925

White and Colored Farmers, Take Notice of These Meetings

On Friday night of this week there will be five meetings in different parts of Richmond county devoted to a discussion of the boll weevil problem. This is the greatest and gravest problem that now confronts the farmers of Eastern Georia and Western South Carolina. The Chronicle has not in any manner over emphasized the danger of the situation. Vast numbers of boll weevils came out of hibernation this year and unless this first crop is killed there will be a little chance for us to make a cotton crop. It is difficult under the best of conditions but when the weevils get an early start this means ruin. Therefore The Chronicle urges that everything possible be done to exterminate the weevils.. Poison them, plow rapidly and often with a bag or the swingle treet, pick up squares and burn them and, in short, neglect nothing to destroy the weevils.

Under the direction of Bright McConnell county farm agent for Richmond county there will be meetings at eight o'clock Friday evening at Hephzibah, Blythe, Hood's Chapel McBean and Gracewood. There will be an expert on the boll weevil to address each meeting and it is urged that both white and colored farmers be present. Colored farmers should have no hesitation about attending these meetings for their white neighbors will give them a cordial welcome. Indeed, the boll weevil problem is a problem for the colored farmer just as much as it is for the white farmer for this pest is no respecter of color.

On Saturday from 11 o'clock a. m., to 4 p. m., there will be poison demonstrations at Gracewood and all of the farmers of this section of two states are urged to attend.

ALBANY, GA. HERAL

JUN 30 1925

FARMING THE NEW WAY.

There is plenty in the land of the Southern States if only those who till it will employ the methods which bring results. The days of slipshod farming are past, and the reason is obvious—it costs more to farm than it did in other times. The cost of all things which enter into the operation of farms and the making of crops has gone up steadily, and unless there is system on the farm—unless there are business methods and scientific management—the farmer cannot succeed.

There are enough successful negro farmers in every one of the Southern States to illustrate clearly the value of intelligently directed industry, for wherever modern methods are employed and industry does not lag, the colored farmer succeeds. The Macon Telegraph, quoting from Collier's, tells of an interesting Virginia case in the following:

The current Colliers Magazine tells the story of "Big Ben" Sizemore, a negro of Averett County, Virginia The story has a local application. At forty-five "Big Ben" could not get credit for a sack of flour. He did odd jobs for the white folks, neighbors to his tiny cabin on a Virginia farm and puttered around with crops. Then he married the star pupil in a demonstration class conducted by George Wharton, a graduate of Hampton Institute. His newly acquired wife put an end to his loafing days and to his odd jobs. She taught him what she had learned about scientific farming. Five years later, he owned several head of stock, some barns and outhouses and had $2,000 in cash. He used the money as first payment upon a 64-acre farm. The next year, he bought a two-story house for which he paid $2,500. In 1922, he had finished paying for both the house and the land. Today he is raising pigs and bred cattle and he is the exemplar of diversified farming. Last year he and two other men realized $15,800 cash from a 320-acre tract that had averaged a net to its previous owner of $300 a year. This negro farmer is netting something like $6,000 a year from his place.

The application is that he learned what he knows from the star pupil of a demonstration agent and from trying out her ideas. Bibb county is considering placing a negro demonstration agent in this county. Is it worth anything to us to have our farms worked scientifically?

Similar instances of the success of colored farmers who have brought modern methods to their farms can be related from every Southern state. Successful negro farmers constitute a contented class, and very few of them have any desire to leave the South.

Swainsboro, Ga., *Forest Blade*

JUN 25 1925

COLORED FARMER IS SHOWING WAY TO PROSPERITY IN BURKE

Mr. Frank Burney told a representative of the True Citizen how a colored farmer and his wife were receiving the profits of living on a farm and making a good living right here in Burke county.

The colored man is John Gilchrist and his wife Hassie Gilchrist. They have eight children and are happy and well contented and are well provided with all the necessary blessings. They operate a four horse farm, have a well furnished home, four head of stock, plenty of corn, a Ford car and do not owe a dollar.

Mr. Barney in speaking of this colored family says he was reminded of the questions now being asked in the state, "What is the matter with Georgia?" and "what is to become of the farmer?" and how can the colored man make a living on the farm?" and it was truly encouraging to hear him tell of this family and what they are doing.

John and Hasie never come to town without bringing something in the way of produce to take care of their grocery bills. They average every week between $16 and $20 from the sale of produce they bring in. This week they brought in 16 dozen eggs at 30c a dozen, $4.80; 18 pounds of butter at 40c a pound, $7.20; berries $1.00; milk 60c; total $16.40. And as stated before the amount never runs les than $16 a week and oftentimes $20. In the winter they sell kindling wood, wood, turkeys, chickens, meats. They also sell vegetables and fruits.

Up to the present time he has not borrowed one cent to carry on his four plows, and says he may need about $50 before cotton opens, but is not sure he will have to borrow this.

The example set by this prosperous and happy colored family living in Burke county is one worthy of emulating and shows what can be done if people will only do. John and Hassie are among the best colored citizens of our county and we believe in giving praise as due, and letting the world know IF YOU WILL DO YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH.—Waynesboro True Citizen.

Agriculture—10,25.

Georgia.

Improvement of.

NEGRO FARMER HAS GOOD RECORD

The Herald-Journal is pleased to note the progress and hard work of another colored farmer of Greene County.

Several weeks ago this paper published the remarkable record of Sam Baugh, which has been commented upon by the state press.

And now comes John Blockum, also tenant farmer who resides on the Griff Williams place, about three miles from Greensboro. The farm has some very good land, but as a whole, it isn't one to brag about, it is said.

Blockum has a three-horse farm. He has gathered and sold fifteen bales of cotton, at a price averaging 23 cents.

He paid a bale and one-half rent.

He will clear something like $900, after every obligation has been discharged.

He sold this year, around $300 worth of watermelons from one-half acre.

He produced enough corn—250 bushels—to do him until he can raise some more, which he says he intends doing.

He produced 250 gallons of sorghum which will sell for about $200. He sold hogs, during this year, amounting to $100. He will slaughter seven head of hogs which, when dressed, will average 200 pounds.

Blockum has six in his family. However, in all he has twelve hands on the farm, including himself and wife.

When asked, by the newspaper man, how he was able to accomplish such a remarkable record, in the face of the drouth, he replied that he plowed when everyone else said it was too dry to plow. He hoed his cotton three or four times and plowed seven or eight times.

"I really do not know how many times I had the cotton plowed, but just kept at it most all the time," he said.

He did not use arsenate in any form. Did not even pick up the squares.

He says he had some boll weevils but didn't worry. He kept constantly at work in his cotton and was able to get results.

Blockum has five milch cows and used all the milk and butter at home.

He produced 2,500 stalks of ribbon cane, which will be made into syrup.

Blockum traded during the year with "The Big Store." He was accompanied to the Herald-Journal office by Mr. T. Hamp McGibbony, who vouched for everything Blockum told the newspaper man.

Blockum produced receipts in full for his account, having paid out and will still have between $800 and $1,000 clear in money, when he has gathered and sold all of his crops.

This demonstrates what can be done if a man has the will and energy to work. He didn't use the drouth as an excuse that he couldn't raise cotton enough to pay his debts.

Success has rewarded his efforts as it always will when directed in the right way.

Blockum didn't sell any cream or butter. He neglected the poultry game.

And yet he made money in the dry year of 1925, and will not have to ask any merchant, bank or landlord to "run him" next year.

The Herald-Journal is publishing what energetic negro farmers are doing to encourage them to better deeds and to show to the white farmers of Greene County what can be done, if one only tries.

There is one thing that Blockum said and we had almost neglected to state it here: "I have never owned an automobile and do not expect to own one. A buggy is good enough for me."—Herald-Journal.

Agriculture—1925.
Improvement of.

Georgia.

FIRST SHIPMENT GEORGIA PEACHES

Car Shipped By Negro to Jacksonville Market

Gray, Ga., May 9.—The first shipment of Georgia peaches for this year left here today for Jacksonville, Fla. The fruit was of the Mayflower variety and was shipped by James Woodfork, Negro farmer. 5-14-25.

The first carload movement of peaches this year will leave here next Wednesday or Thursday. The peach crop in Jones county this year will total about 800 cars against 1,100 cars last year.

WHAT A MAN ON THE LAND DID IN GEORGIA

The Augusta Chronicle carries a news story which points its own moral, and requires little or no comment. A staff man, writing from Chipley, Ga., reports at length how cotton and corn can be and has been raised on poor land in that state without commercial fertilizer, how the land has become four times as productive as it was and how cattle and hogs have been fattened profitably on the same land without any corn. The proof of this statement, as the correspondent remarks, is the showing of results.

More than 650 farmers from all parts of Georgia, and 16 agricultural experts, some from Alabama, were shown that proof the other day on the farm of Bob Hasty, in Harris county, near Chipley, "and in the showing one could easily visualize what the farm was before Bob Hasty began about six years ago to apply his land cure to something more than 200 acres of poor, clay Georgia farm land; in fact the land was so poor six years ago that the tenants all had left and Farmer Hasty had to go to work himself." 4-17-25

A combination of hairy vetch, crimson clover, yellow mellilotus, and on the pasture lands a sprinkling of rape, tells the whole story, and Farmer Hasty says that the only thing in the nature of fertilizer he uses now, for any purpose at all, is a little acid, but under some of the corn he planted last year he used nothing at all, and did not even work the corn after it was up. The land on which the corn was planted used to grow from eight to ten bushels to the acre, and on the same ground he is now producing 60 to 75 bushels to the acre. On adjoining land, all treated the same way now, he used to get 500 pounds of seed cotton to the acre; now he gets a minimum of 1,500 pounds of seed cotton—and he uses "only a little acid."

"The big part of the story is in the fact that Hasty is intensely interested in and enthusiastic over his work and the success he is making of it, and says so," remarks the correspondent.

The day for the demonstration under review was set because now is Hasty's time to begin turning under his vetch-clover-mellilotus crop to supply the nitrogen on which he grows his money crops. Probably a third of Hasty's plantation has been turned under, and prepared for corn and cotton; the other two-thirds is now covered with the leguminous planting which farmers went many miles to see on the day of the demonstration; and of course they also saw the hogs and cattle on this show place.

The correspondent here quotes Mr. Hasty:

"Some of this land," Hasty said, "was sold less than 20 years ago for taxes. It was so poor it wouldn't bring any more. About six years ago my tenants began to get discouraged and left the place, because they couldn't make anything. I was up against it and found I just had to do something. People will criticize and laugh, you know, when you try to do something they think out of the ordinary, and because I didn't want them criticizing me and trying to send me to an asylum, I began experimenting on that part of the field away back from the road. I put in vetch and clover and the thing worked. The land produced as it had never produced before, and even then the people around laughed about it and said I didn't know how to farm.

"Anyhow, I just kept on working out my theory and added to the land I covered with these legumes, and as a side issue, put in to do something with hogs and cattle raising.

"Well, you see what it has worked out. On this side of the road, there is a tract of 165 acres. It was all too poor to grow ten bushels of corn to the acre; on the other side there is a tract of 65 acres, and it was the same way. Some of it hasn't been put in this leguminous crop yet and you can see the comparison. Well, anyhow, farm hands and tenants from all around are now anxious to get on the land. Last year's results prove what it will do. I got from 65 to 75 bushels of corn an acre right off there, and on the back field there I got a bale of cotton to the acre; at least that land produced not less than 1,500 pounds of seed cotton an acre when the best land on the whole place used to produce only about 500 pounds of seed cotton." Asked about his "side issue," Mr. Hasty said: "About three days ago I shipped two carloads of hogs off the place. Just called them up and loaded them from the field. I got 12 cents a pound for the meat. I had paid a run of six to eight cents a pound for it. The cattle is the same way. I pay two and a half or two cents a pound for poor cattle, keep it in the fields a month and sell it for five cents to six cents, with an added weight of about 200 pounds or more. When the land has been grazed over I put the tractors and plows on it, turn under the legume, lay off the land and put in my corn and cotton. I plant the corn just as thick as I can get it and do the cotton the same way. Some of the cotton I don't even chop out; it doesn't make as many bolls to the stalk, but there are so many stalks it makes more cotton, and there is so much nitrogen in the ground it takes care of all the cotton, peas and velvet and soy beans I can pour into that ground. The story was fully borne out not only by ocular demonstration of the results claimed, but by local people. The hundreds of acres and even the agricultural experts. There were 15 of them from Georgia and Alabama, expressed the conviction that "this is what every farm in Georgia or Alabama needs, this is the solution to farming in this section."

This is a significant and important story. It is but another illustration of how a superior, resourceful man meets an emergency and masters his fate. It again proves what should never be forgotten, namely, that there's more in the man than there is in the land.

ATLANTA, GA., Constitution
OCT 28 1925

GREENSBORO NEGRO SUCCEEDS AS FARMER

Greensboro, Ga., October 27.—(Special.)—A negro farmer on one of the farms of Judge J. B. Park has made a record for selling milk, cream, poultry and eggs; living on what his farm produced, without buying on credit. By feeding skimmed milk to his pigs he will have nine hogs to kill this fall.

His activities included paying for a cream separator. The negro has farmed under direction of Farm Agent W. H. West, who gave him good advice. His record is regarded as a good example of thrift to both races.

Agriculture—1925.
Improvement of
Georgia.
VALDOSTA, GA., 1926

JUN 23 1925

FEWER COLORED FARMERS IN COOI

J. S. Department of Commerc Issues Report on Farm Conditions

Atlanta, Ga., June 20.—A total c 1,180 farms were being operated i Cook County on January 1, 192 as compared with a total of 1,22 for the same date in 1920, accord ing to the 1925 farm census take by the United States Department o Commerce.

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Agriculture – 1925.
Improvement of.

Georgia

NEGRO COTTON CLUBS MADE GOOD SHOWING

Athens, Ga., February 21.—(Special.)—A list of negro boys, who produced 300 or more pounds of lint cotton on an acre last season, was made public here today by L. V. Cunningham, state boy's club agent, who is particularly directing his work in an effort to interest negro boys in the production of more and better cotton.

The largest yield per acre was produced by Herschel Glenn of Conyers, Ga., and the second largest by Zedie Baker, also of Conyers. They produced a bale each, weighing 525 pounds and 500 pounds, respectively.

Charles Bannister, of Perry, Ga., was reported third on the list, producing a 454-pound bale on an acre. Walter Bannister, ran him a close race, his bale weighing only one pound less. Grady Walker, Sandersville, Ga., was credited with producing a 446-pound bale. The next largest was 420 pounds, produced by James Sims, of Conyers.

The others o nthe list are as follows: Lonnie Jernigan, Sandersville, 400 pounds; Judson Gordon, Sandersville, 396 pounds; John Smith Tennille, 325 pounds; George Gilmore Davisboro, 348 pounds; C. C. Smith Davisboro, 354 pounds; Willie Ray Sandersville, 354 pounds; Reather Flagg, Tennille, 373 pounds; Amos May Chalker, 310 pounds; Homer Turner, Conyers, 354 pounds; C. B. Weaver, Conyers, 300 pounds; John McQuire, Lithonia, 310 pounds, and Charles McQuire, Lithonia, 300 pounds.

Mr. Cunningham stated that he expected even greater results from his work this year.

WHY GEORGIA LAGS.

There is an interesting study in Brookmire's Farm Income Bulletin for March by way of comparisons in the southern states. This bulletin is a compilation of the results of an agricultural research service, and its dependability has been long established.

While the statistics of all southern states are published, thereby making comparisons merely a matter of placing one against the other, we will here cite the comparison between Georgia and North Carolina for the sake of an argument and in the hope of impressing some outstanding truths from which Georgia may profit.

Of the 310,732 farms in Georgia as against North Carolina's 269,763. Georgia has 28.2 per cent of the total owned by white farmers as against 48.2 per cent owned by white farmers in North Carolina. That is to say 20 per cent more white farmers own their farms in North Carolina than in Georgia. This is a big score in favor of North Carolina.

Georgia has 29.9 per cent white and 36.7 per cent negro tenants, as against 23.5 and 20, respectively, in North Carolina. Another score for North Carolina.

Of Georgia's farms 5.2 per cent are owned by negroes, while in North Carolina 8.3 per cent are owned by negroes.

The total income from Georgia's 310,732 farms amounts to $198,000,000, whereas North Carolina's 269,763 farms showed a total income of $267,000,000 — another tremendous score for North Carolina.

The average income for a Georgia farm is $637 and the average income for a North Carolina farm is $990. Another score! The average income per improved acre in Georgia is $15.17, and in North Carolina $32.57 — more than double.

Why is this difference so pronounced in North Carolina's favor? The climatic conditions favor Georgia. The soil conditions are practically the same. Both states have the same kind of people—as good old Anglo-Saxon stock as there is in America. Both states have approximately the same ratio as between the whites and blacks. Georgia people as a whole are just as industrious and just as thrifty. Then what is the cause?

North Carolina has applied business to government. It has placed progressive business men of established capacity in its public service departments. Business men make the sacrifice of time from their own affairs to go to the general assembly to work constructively as business men for the material advancement of all the interests of the people.

Progressiveness along sound business lines marks every state activity. One hundred millions of dollars have been spent on a state-wide good roads system—the best state system in America with the exception of California. The state not only maintains the university, agricultural college, normals and all state institutions with a policy of liberality, but it meets the demands for expansion promptly and adequately. It builds for the future as well as the day.

What is the result? Highways make the farmers' problems lighter and easier to handle. They make farm life more attractive, which automatically builds community pride and spirit. The latter tends to cooperation. The farmer's situation enables him to educate his children. The boy brings modern methods to the farm from his agricultural college. The whole atmosphere is surcharged with prosperity and with contentment, and under such conditions work is always more resourceful, and success easier to attain.

Someone has said North Carolina has higher taxes than Georgia. Combining the various taxes and striking the totals shows this not to be generally true. Suppose they were higher. The North Carolina acre that produces twice what a Georgia acre produces in money value, average, is more than twice able to pay taxes. Boldly speaking, the difference is between independence and dependence. The independent man is not worried with fair and legitimate tax assessments. The lowest possible tax rate is too high for the dependent man.

The whole situation revolves around politics. In Georgia cheap politics in every department of government, state and usually local, is holding progress back. It is starving schools, arresting highway development and destroying confidence. To that extent the Georgia farmer, speaking of him as a unit, is not encouraged to do his best, nor can he do his best under such conditions.

If Georgia will apply business to government as North Carolina has done, and sweep the state of petty politics and intolerant prejudices, Georgia will soon equal North Carolina in her great race to farm prosperity.

WHITE AND COLORED FARMERS UNITE ON A MUTUAL BASIS

Will Jointly Conduct Experiments Looking Toward The Improvement of Cultivation Methods and Crop Yield.

Madison, Ga., Feb. 23.—In an effort to greatly raise the farm production in Morgan county both Negro and white farmers have come together to mutually work out plans for the diversification of crops and to work out plans for the greatest possible yield per acre.

At a meeting held here Tuesday, farmers of both races were represented and plans were adopted for a more intensive cultivation of the farms, as well as scientific and systematic plans for soil enrichment.

It is said that this action is regarded as an epoch in southern farming and bespeaks one of the most progressive steps ever taken in this country. It is claimed that planters of both races are enthusiastic in their co-operation with the plan and are giving it their hearty support. The farmers who attended the meeting pledged themselves to set aside one or more acres upon which they will plant various crops and will be governed in the cultivation of them as specified by the special farm agents and demonstrators.

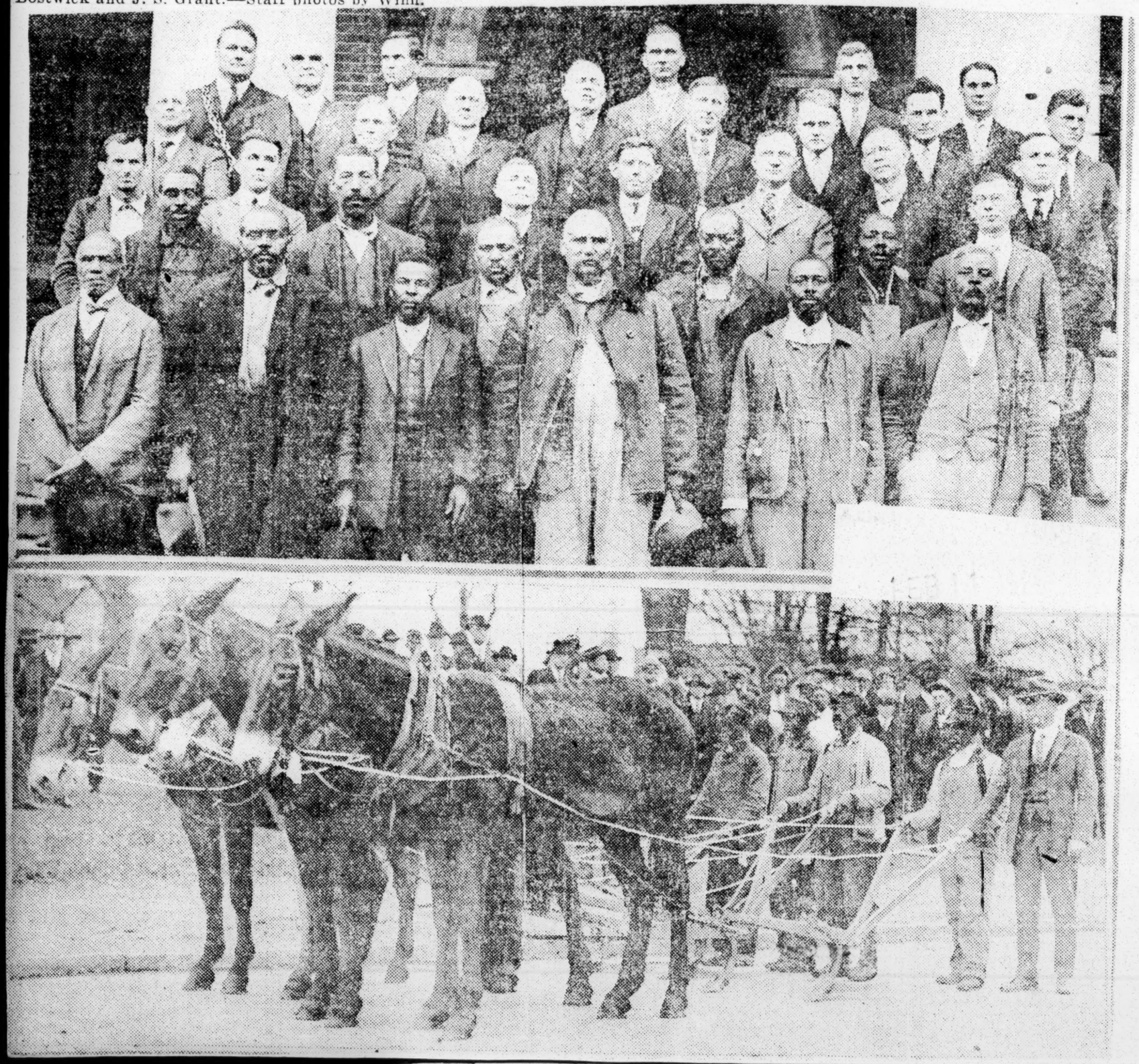
Negro Boys Form Clubs

County agent, L. S. Watson, announced at the meeting that this year cotton, corn and perhaps other agricultural clubs, would be organized among the boys. It was also announced that the Morgan County Fair Association would also set aside a certain number of prizes for the best exhibits of both white and colored farmers in the fair next fall.

Morgan White and Colored Farmers Unite on Progressive Program

Realizing that a feal "come-back" in agriculture depends on the cooperation of all forces, the Morgan county farm board has taken the negro planters of the county into partnership, appointing a representative in each militia district to work with the white representative in carrying out the instructions of the demonstration agent and the board. That the negroes mean business was shown in the number that attended the meeting in Madison Tuesday. Below they are seen with their plows swung behind their faithful mules and "rearin' to go." The white man with his hand on the plow handle is County Agent L. S. Watson.

Above, the farm board, consisting of a white and negro farmer from each militia district. Front row, left to right (negroes), Shed Dorsey, 90-year-old Civil war vet, known as king of Georgia peanut roasters; Dave Williams, Ike Bass, John Head, Edgar Brown, Dan Ray. Second row (negroes), Jessie Wilson, Tom Jones, Jim Campbell, William Cobb, Alex Malcomb. County Agent Watson is just back of Malcomb. Third row, R. M. Crew, W .L. Carmichael, W. A. Oxford, E. N. Center, W. G. Carter, W. H. Adams, R. W. Parker, W. T. Bacon. Fourth row, W. S. Reid, W. P. Bearden, retiring chairman of the board; Lee Trammell, H. A. Davis, Foster Smith, Paul H. Ponder, Arch P. Clemmons, Joe Bell. Fifth row, M. C. Jay, A. G. Adair, F. C. Newton, newly elected chairman of the board; J. A. Nolan, Jr., Rice Green, Jr. Others on the board, absent when photo was taken, are: Mrs. Emily Carpenter, Ben S. Thompson, John Bostwick and J. S. Grant.—Staff photos by Winn.



Agriculture – 1925
Improvement of.

General.

PHILADELPHIA PA. RECORD
JUNE 30, 1925

Farm Budgets.

The Department of Agriculture has been trying to find out what a considerable number of farmers—enough for a general basis of estimate—make; how much they take in and how much they pay out. The figures are interesting, but they are not entirely convincing. There is something the matter with budgets. When the uplifters undertake to find out what is the least sum a working man and his family can live on, or the minimum income that is essential for a working girl, they invariably reach a conclusion a good deal above the earnings of a great part of the working population.

The department reports an average cash balance, of receipts over expenses in money, of $1024, on 15,103 farms averaging 303 acres and of a value of $14,323. In addition to this margin these farms increased inventories of crops, live stock, machinery and supplies to the extent of $181. Thus there was an average return of $1205 for the use of $17,260 of capital and the labor of the farmer and his family. These farms also produced food and fuel consumed on the farm estimated to be worth $266 on an average.

If the average farm is worth something over $14,000, where is over $17,000 of capital invested? Probably the difference of approximately $3000 is in live stock and implements, but that is a small sum for the equipment of a farm of 303 acres. Furthermore, the estimated value of food and fuel used on the farm seems extremely low. That is about $5 a week for the food and fuel of the family. If we put together the cash surplus, the increased inventory and the supplies consumed, we have an aggregate return of $1471.

Sales of crops brought in an average of $1012, sales of live stock or live stock products were $1350, and miscellaneous receipts were $72. These three items aggregate $2434. The average cash expenses were $1410, and the difference is the $1024, net cash profits, with which we started out.

The average net cost of raising wheat on the farms that reported was $1.22 a bushel and the average sale value was 21 cents more. and the production per acre was considerably above the general average for the country. The average cost of producing corn was 82 cents a bushel and its average sale value was $1.10. The average profit on oats was 7 cents. These are very narrow margins, but it is explained that the labor of the farmer and his family is included in the cost charges.

The average farmer in these tables owns 303 acres of land and the buildings and equipment. If he inherited this from his father it presents no puzzle, but if he had to earn the farm it is not easy to see how he did it. A return on the value of the land is also allowed for, but here is an opportunity for a good deal of misunderstanding, for the value of the land is based upon the value of the product. It was because farming was very profitable during the war that land went up to $300 and $400 an acre. Land values declined subsequently because produce did not bring war prices. But a year or two ago there was a decided upward turn in farm values in the Northwest. In the South farm values declined on account of the boll weevil and the Negro migration, but for a year and a half prices have been advancing in every Southern State, except North Carolina, where they are unchanged, and Georgia, where there has been a small decline. Since 1920 farm land values in the whole country have declined 30 per cent., but in Iowa, where the boom was most pronounced, they declined 38 per cent. In the South the decline has been less than 19 per cent.

Agriculture- 1925
Improvement of.

Europe.

COUNTRY LIFE IN EUROPE

FARM LIFE ABROAD
And Its Lessons to America

The following review of Dr. E. C. Branson's book "Farm Life Abroad" published by the University of North Carolina Press appeared in the Manufacturers Record, April 2, 1925 and was written by Richard Woods Edmonds, editor in charge. The first edition of the book has been exhausted. Orders already received will practically exhaust the second edition now being printed. The book appeals strongly to the general reader who is interested in improving the rural end of our civilization. Yet, to the surprise of its author, large orders for "Farm Life Abroad" have been received from colleges and universities where the book has been adopted as collateral reading in courses dealing with rural life. The book's strongest appeal should be to the general reader in North Carolina who is interested in the farmer. It was for our home folks primarily that it was written and published. A copy of the book, price $2.00, may be had by writing the University Press, Chapel Hill, N. C.—S. H. H., Jr., Editor.

Many an American reading "Farm Life Abroad," whether he be farmer, merchant, manufacturer, banker or broker, will envy the happy lot of the Danish farmers. There are a few things our farmers might learn to their advantage from the German farmers, and a few they might learn from the French farmers. Most of them own their farms. None of them live in remote, solitary isolation. They live in compact little farm villages, go out daily to their work, and enjoy a degree of social life with life-long friends and neighbors that is impossible for the great majority of our farmers. Professor Branson says:

"In south and central Germany there are 2,000,000 of these small, home-owning farmers, dwelling in compact social groups, not in solitary farmsteads a few to the square mile in vast open spaces as in the United States. It is lonesomeness alone that accounts for much of the cityward drift of country people in America. It is the social life of home-owning farmers in farm villages that will save the country life of Europe from falling into the decay that threatens America."

On the other hand, these French and German farmers can teach our farmers much of what to avoid. The back-breaking drudgery of women and children, who are the beasts of burden on German and French farms, and scavengers pushing carts along the roads to gather up the manure dropped by passing animals—such work for women and children is intolerable alike to Danish and American farmers. It is therefore with a feeling of disquiet that one reads, "Our own small-scale farmers are moving little by little toward the low estate of the knee-farming peasants of the Old World countries, where the farm burdens rest in the main upon the backs of women and children."

But when we come to Denmark There, it seems is the paradise of farmers. There the chief business of the nation is farming, and the State is organized and run by the farmers for the benefit of the farmers. "Do the farmers of Denmark ever work any?" Professor Branson asked a Dane. "If they do, I have never been able to catch them at it. In a single afternoon in a single landscape anywhere in central and south Germany you can see more people at work in the fields than I have seen in the fields of Denmark in six weeks of travel from one end of the state to the other. What's the answer?"

The Dane this question was fired at spoke English, and was the university-bred son of a farmer who was a seasoned member of Parliament.

"My answer would be," said he, "that the Dane is lazy by nature. He never sweats his back if he can get there by sweating his brain."

And this, to judge by the chapters that follow, is a modest manner of saying that the Dane is a thinker. He has his farm work so perfectly organized that animals, machines, or cooperative farm societies do most of the work for him. Professor Branson finds: "He pickets his farm animals in the fields and they harvest his crops for him during seven or eight months of the year. He is a livestock farmer on a machine basis, which means minimum workers and minimum hours in the field. As for marketing his crops and getting the money into his pocket, he hardly bothers with it at all; the cooperative societies attend to that."

But the cooperative societies are the farmers' own organizations, to eliminate the middleman and give the farmer whatever profit is made on his produce. The cooperative reduces his pigs to bacon, ham and so forth and sells the products to the ultimate consumers. Some of them even maintain retail food shops in London and Manchester, and the profits from those stores go right back to the farmers in Denmark. Professor Branson has seen better farmers than the Danes, but, he says, he has never seen better business men anywhere than the Danish farmers.

The proof of the pudding is in the eating. "The Danish farmers are rich," asserts Professor Branson. "Man for man, they are the richest farmers in the world. And they have risen to this preeminence in this short space of seventy-five years. I say seventy-five years because they began to combine their resources in credit unions as long ago as 1850. During the sixty years immediately preceding this date they were struggling with landlessness, illiteracy and poverty." One hundred and thirty-five years ago, or about the time the thirteen American states were adopting their Constitution, the Danish farmers were freed from serfdom by their king.

It appears that while Americans of pronounced business ability have gone into industrial life, the Danes, having no such natural resources on which to base industries and knowing only agriculture, were staying right on the farm and developing farming along scientific business principles. Thus the best brains of the nation have gone into farming, with the unique result Branson so vividly describes.

While the cause of their success is therefore that peculiar form of laziness, the instrument by which they have achieved success is the cooperative enterprise. "They keep their hands on their own farm wealth every inch of the way from the farmers' fields to the consumers' tables," reports Professor Branson. "I asked, in the innocency of a greenhorn from the States, whether or not it was against the law in Denmark for a farmer to act alone and to do things for himself by himself. The answer was, 'Not at all, but the Danish farmer who hasn't sense enough to see the direct advantage of cooperative business is so rare that he is almost unknown.'"

In 1923 Denmark exported $233,000,000 worth of farm products, after feeding herself. North Carolina, the leading agricultural state of the South next to Texas, with a population about equal to Denmark's and three times the area, annually imports about $200,000,000 of food and feed stuffs, although in justice it should be said that she exports large values in cotton and tobacco. The difference is that all of the Danish farmers feed themselves as far as their farms can be made to do it, and their exports are surplus, while a large proportion of the Danish business men maintain small farms or gardens that suffice for their families, while many of our farmers have not yet learned the value of feeding themselves from their own kitchen gardens.

One of the outstanding features of the Danish farm philosophy that all Americans of whatever walk in life should study most carefully is their attitude toward State aid. The statement is made, "the Danish farmers do not believe in salvation by legislation, economic or social. What they do believe in is salvation by organization, and their organizations are self-help enterprises. In which respect they differ radically from the state-supported cooperatives of the Mediterranean peoples—France and Italy for instance."

We have a few farm cooperatives in this country, and they do not expect State aid. They are as independent of it as the Danish cooperatives. But we also have strong appeals for salvation by legislation, for State aid of one sort or another to farmers, and many people believe prosperity by legislation is a possibility. It would be interesting and highly enlightening if we could analyze this sentiment and find how much of it comes from those European races that seem to turn naturally to their Governments for aid, and how much of it—if any—comes from our native Anglo-Saxon and Scandinavian peoples. The workings of these State-supported cooperatives are instructive and throw light on the results to be expected from Government support in any line.

The question is, therefore, worth further examination, and it is shown that, "among the Mediterranean peoples the cooperatives are financed by large grants from the State, and the credit organizations are largely managed by state officials. The same thing is largely true of producing, buying and selling cooperatives. The result is what might easily have been foreseen at the start. The cooperators are a large voting bloc, and they make increasing demands year by year—a voting bloc so large in Italy that they threatened bankruptcy to the State until Mussolini called a halt. France at this very minute is facing the same serious problem. Soft-soaping the farmers is the prime business of a Minister of Agriculture in one of the countries I visited last year. I discovered in my interview with him that everything done in his department was done with the purpose of controlling the farm vote in the approaching elections."

What use do the world's richest farmers make of the abundant spare time their skilful organization of their business has left them? To judge from Professor Branson's account, they appear to make excellent use of it. His chapters, besides those devoted to the educational system in Denmark, are liberally sprinkled with references to their intellectual life. "The Danes are farmers, but even more they are business men, * * * and I am assured that they are easily equal to the bankers and brokers in discussing foreign situations and domestic consequences, trade policies and economic laws in general." Speaking of two neighboring farms, Professor Branson writes, "They are operated by a father and son, the one said to have the ripest university culture and the other the best business brain among the farmers of Denmark. Culture and agriculture are one in Denmark, because farming in this democratic Commonwealth is a satisfying

way of life as well as a profitable form of business."

There are several interesting chapters on education in Denmark, but the outstanding features of Danish education seem to be, first, the exceedingly low percentage of illiteracy, compared with which Professor Branson finds conditions in America "humiliating"; and second, the folk high schools that dot the country—an institution peculiarly Danish. One such school that he visited "aimed at waking up the souls of these young Danes to the opportunities of noble living and noble citizenship as farmers in a cooperative Commonwealth. This is an adult school; these students are between 18 and 26 years of age; they come almost entirely out of farm homes; they are in a folk high school for five or six months once or maybe twice in a lifetime, and we do not have a chance to teach them much, but we do have a chance to stir the impulse to self-tuition in a thousand directions during all the rest of their lives." It would be impossible to say how large a part these folk high schools, with their impulse to self-tuition, or to the continuation of study throughout life, have contributed to the intellectual life Professor Branson found on farms throughout the country—the keen interest in art, in literature and world affairs, and in music, such as may be found in this country only in rare spots.

It would be difficult to find a single book more stimulating to the imagination of anyone interested in the happiness and welfare of our farm people than this book of Branson's. But it has a far wider appeal. It possesses considerable value to the student of government or of economics, for it deals freely and broadly with the economic and political philosophy of a highly-successful farm civilization.

"For Denmark is what no other country in Europe is; indeed, what no other state in the world is—namely, a cooperative Commonwealth in every phase of statehood—economic, social, and civic," declares the writer.

"The Danes believe that home and farm ownership tethers a man to law and order better than all the laws on the statute books, that it promotes industry, thrift, sobriety, and integrity, that it makes a man a stable, responsible citizen, that it breeds in him a sense of proprietary interest in churches, schools and roads, that it moves him to safeguard his home and home community against social contaminations, that it makes him a better husband, a better father, a better neighbor, and a better citizen. And they are everlastingly right about it. Any community, state or country, is in peril so long as its mud-sills are laid down in landlessness, homelessness, and roving, irresponsible citizenship. The Danes are so strongly established in this belief that they have literally moved Heaven and earth in the last quarter-century to reduce town and country tenancy to zero, or as nearly so as humanly possible.

"America has moved steadily in the opposite direction. More than one-half of all the people in the United States live in dwellings that they do not own, more than one-half of all the Southern farmers are renters and croppers, a third of all our white farmers and two-thirds of our negro farmers in North Carolina are tenants, while in our larger cities from two-thirds to three-fourths of the people spend their days and nights, like poor Dante, going up and down somebody else's stairs."

No American business man can read the book without wishing fervently that our farmers would become anchored to their farms by ownership ties, while our working classes and, in fact, all classes—became anchored to moderate, conservative policies of politics through ownership of their homes. No one with a drop of crusader blood in his veins can read the book without resolving to do all his station in life will permit him to do to bring to pass his highly desirable consummation.

Agriculture - 1925
Condition of.

Alabama

Electric Service on French Farms Showing Big Increase

Relative to the growth of electrict service on French farms a recent bulletin of the Alabama Public Utilities Information Bureau gives some interesting statistics. As is known, the Alabama Power company is now conducting a series of experiments in Alabama relative to using electricity on the farm. Says the bulletin in the bulletin relative to French farms:

"The scarcity of labor and of farm animals in France at the end of the World War resulted in a greater development of rural electric service in five years than in the entire preceding history of the country, according to reports gathered by the recent French Electro-Farming Congress.

"It is estimated that throughout France the use of electricity on farms and in rural communities increased several hundred per cent between 1918 and 1923, the last year for which complete figures were submitted at the Congress.

"A survey of the typical farming community was given in a detailed analysis of rural service near Nancy, which for five years was on or near the battle front, and in which electric service increased as follows:

	1918	1923
Farms and hamlets served	95	992
Kilowatt hours consumed	30,000,000	300,000,000
Lamps in use	65,000	302,000
Electric motors	666	4.423
Miles of transmission lines	136	650
Miles of distribution lines	252	1,780

"The demand for agricultural service has produced a corresponding demand for trained men, with the result that many French institutions of learning are now combining instruction in modern farm methods and electrical engineering."

BLACK BELT PROBLEMS

Mr. McClure Emphasizes Virtue and Value of White People Doing Farm Work

Editor The Advertiser:

I came to Montgomery today on other business, but I changed my mission in a measure. We people of the Black Belt love Montgomery and we both love and admire The Advertiser. We love your paper because we know you are our friend and we admire the sound and courageous stand you always take in handling problems peculiar to the Black Belt. Some day a just and well merited reward will be yours and ours.

Early today I found The Advertiser at the door of my room in the Gay Teague hotel. As I most always do, I turned to the editorial page first. There I found enlightenment and encouragement beyond hope and expectation. The letter from Mr. R. E. Lambert was read first. I value highly everything he has to say about the Black Belt. He is real authority on clovers, legumes, dairying, soil building, etc. I next read your editorial accompanying and relating to Mr. Lambert's letter. As usual, it strikes straight for the facts and kinder splits differences in search of sound logic. And when I read the letter from Mrs. Frank P. Morgan on Florida's boom and Alabama's opportunity, I felt like consulting Mr. Webster to find the latitude—if any—of the word "vision."

Last October I was up in a small town in the hill section of Alabama. I was getting a hurried lunch near the depot. The man operating the restaurant wanted to know where I was from and what I was up to. Very soon something was said about the Alabama Black Belt. He said that he had a friend who was down and out, but had a willing wife, four head of good work stock, and seven children, four of whom were old enough to go to the field. He related that this man was a good, hard-working farmer, but had about gone broke fooling away time at "public work," that he was looking for a good farming country, that somebody had gotten him interested in Oklahoma, etc. I told this restaurant man that I was leaving on the noon train but would return at 5:30 and suggested that he have his friend in town, that I wanted to meet him—provided he was sure his wife was willing and they had some work stock and as to the children old enough to work, the more the better. He replied that he had the very man I was looking for, and I said that I had the country and the man his man was looking for.

We met by appointment in the afternoon. In half an hour later we were two miles across the mountains, meeting his folks and looking over what he had in the way of teams and tools. One the way back to town, this man told me how much he was in debt. I told him that could be arranged. I had made him very anxious to see the Black Belt, he mentioning that he was wanting to locate in a country where it was not necessary to put breeching on the hogs, and a land that would grow cotton without so much fertilizer, hay and many other things. I asked him to go home with me on an early train the next morning—he replied that he didn't have any money. I told him I had enough to pay our railroad fare and get dinner in Birmingham when changing cars.

Landed In Sumter County

To make a long story short, this man is now a share cropper on a 2,200 acre plantation in North Sumter, and Southwest Pickens counties. He will clear about $1,000 this first year, but the landowner with whom he is located told me that if he lost $500 on this fellow he would consider the amount a real good investment. He went on to say that when his "niggers" saw this new white man's children chopping cotton it was a sight new to them and that when they saw his 12 and 14 year old girls dropping a fine field of corn, I had just looked over they were electrified. (The corn is good for 40 bushels per acre, on black upland, was a Johnson grass hay meadow last year.) The result of all of which being that his labor never worked better and his fine crop in consequence was quite in evidence—the "small white farmer from the hills," having decidedly the best cotton and corn on the place.

I was further told by this hospitable and enthusiastic landowner that next year's plans call for this white farmer to have, with his family, complete charge of his dairy business, of some 35 or 40 good cows and that other enlarged facilities for farming would be given him. But this merely begins what could be made a story and a book might be written along this line embracing the Black Belt lessons of the past, demands of the future and opportunities of the present.

Mud vs. Sand

There are today about a dozen white renters and share-croppers in the vicinity of this place, all having come down within a few weeks last winter upon the appeals and letters from this man who had told me last October he wanted to get to some country level enough for his dog to sit down and bark, and who was first in that vicinity to blast the views of many of our native planters who say or have said that the negro was the only labor who would farm the Black Belt lands, etc.

This white Alabamian recently told me that while the mud sticks to his feet when it is wet he does not have to wash his feet every night when plowing in dry weather as he had to do back in the sandy hills where he came from. He also remarked that his fertilizer bill where he was born would pay a good rent on the land where he is now succeeding so well. He also said that he did not know there was a country on earth where his cows would give so much milk and butter on grass and clovers alone, as they were now doing, and his wife gave me two pounds of fine home-made Jersey butter, as good as a man would want to swallow. She told me chickens do as well here as back home and turkeys do much better.

Mr. Lambert's letter is all right, and so is your editorial, Mr. Editor, in today's paper. But, we may exempt dairy farming from taxation from now until doom's day; we may talk inculation until Gabriel blows his horn; we may spend our idle hours reading all about the fixation of atmospheric nitrogen and such like—and we may send to the four corners of the world for authorities to come here and lecture us on vitalized agriculture (or re-vitalized agriculture) but until the white people of the Black Belt go to work many of them throwing off their cloaks and self-satisfied appearance, and undertake to get in more white folks who will work with their hands as well as their heads, we will continue merely to scratch the surface of our opportunities.

Sound, Sturdy People

There is a way to get more white farmers on our lands but they must not be scattered so far and wide—they must be bunched close enough for the women folks to associate with one another (for little will they be invited to some of our functions where taffeta is overhung by chiffon and where colors are in harmony with the occasion—but not calculated so much to make new comers feel at home). Above all, they must be close to a good school for their children to get what they say they failed largely to get. They are pure and genuine folks even if some of their men are caught dipping snuff and some of their women may be seen occasionally in hot weather going barefooted about the house. These people are not only the offspring of those men who followed Andrew Jackson to New Orleans, but their forefathers located in the hills, many of them because they could not get into the Black Belt—wealth and aristocracy and slave labor having taken over these better lands. It has now required a civil war, the boll weevil and a world war to blast the door open. These people from the hills also, o fcourse, will require a house to live in, a good well of water, a barn or stable and at least a garden spot fenced in; but if we will only go after them right they will knock out the "niggerfied" appearance of many of our plantations, they will fix the bridge from the big road up to the house and the latches of all the gates will fit. When such a scene may be observed the northern and western man will then be easier to move here and will pay us twice and three times the present level of land prices and be glad to get it. Automatically our native Southerners will acquire much of this land—the land will sell itsef and we not have to offer a siver dollar for 60 cents and thus create delay and suspicion that its a counterfeit.

Our lands are rich enough rather than poor. The Black Belt needs a re-vitalizing of its man power, a stopping of its leaks and wastes rather than soil building for the present. All these other things will come as "our tired soil thus feels the touch of accomplished skill." We can do what ought to be done and not have to go beyond the bounds of Alabama for white farmers and not run a single good negro off the lands of the Black Belt. Foreign capital and labor will then come in to enrich us and our state. Yea, verily now and even then there will be about as much in front of us as behind us for the Selma Chalk is about 500 feet thick underlying the Black Belt. No one need be afraid of it, nor in any measure ashamed of the people who have owned it and now own it. We face mere conditions and not theories.

W. C. McCLURE.
Montgomery, Ala. (Of Tuscaloosa, Ala.)

THE BLACK BELT TOMORROW

It is ten years since the first boll weevil fall in the Black Belt of Alabama, and 11 years since the European war ruined cotton prices that time, just before the same war made cotton prices higher than they had been before in more than 40 years.

In the past ten years the Black Belt has been struck hip and thigh; it has taken punishment, and it has suffered. But it has fought back gallantly and more or less effectively. In the matter of punishment received, the Black Belt was caught on a all-cotton basis when the war killed its market for a season; the next season, in 1915, the boll weevil took a heavy toll. In the summer of 1916 the floods came and wrought havoc on the living crops. The industrial plants of the nation beckoned to the impoverished negro tenants and farm hands and they began leaving by the hundred. These blows came thick and fast. They came so fast they left the ill-conditioned Black Belt dazed, and regretful that it had so long neglected its training. New mortgages on old estates were written, and the Black Belt began to fight for its life.

There has been nothing of the spectacular in the fight which the Black Belt has made to save itself; it has not been a thrilling fight, but rather a steady, persistent, dogged struggle. The fight has not been without excellent results. If less land is under cultivation today than ten years ago, individual farmers are better off than they were in 1915. They are not growing as much cotton as in the old days, but they are getting more for it. They have fewer field hands, and more cows; there may be fewer farm mules in the Black Belt but there are more automobiles, and there are more sheep; and there are more chickens.

There are thousands of acres of idle lands in the Black Belt, but much of this

land should be better for having rested, notwithstanding that some of it has been suffered to wash badly due to neglect.

In these past ten years, the Black Belt has suffered; it has often been discouraged, but it is a tribute to the spirit of the people in this section that they never gave up. This is illustrated by the fact that the educational reforms and the extension of good roads have been supported by Black Belt people. They voted for the amendment providing local taxation for schools, and thereafter voted to impose new school taxes on themselves under this amendment. They voted for the reports indicate that they are favorably inclined to increasing road bonds. The people of the Black Belt voted for these progressive measures at a time when many of them were not sure where the money was coming from to pay interest on the family mortgage. They believed in themselves and they believed in the future of their section.

By now the Black Belt has got used to the new condition. It has learned how to farm with reduced labor. It has learned how to grow cotton under boll weevils. It has learned a great deal about the art of dairying; it is learning about pecans and trucking, and now it is deeply interested in sheep.

The Black Belt will go on growing cotton, but not as in the old days. In the future it will achieve reputation as one of the choice dairy regions of the United States. In the fututre it will lean more and more on sheep and wool, and more and more on chickens and eggs, and fruits and vegetables. New people will come to occupy our idle lands and increase the production of this section.

In all economic revolutions—and the Black Belt has undergone a real one—the first ten years are the hardest; and that is no idle jest. The next ten years should be years of progress and prosperity for the Black Belt. Nearby markets for foods of all kinds have geratly strengthened and are growing stronger. They will buy here because of low carriage charges, provided we produce the goods they want; and we are beginning to produce.

COLORED FARMERS SUFFER FROM LACK OF ORGANIZATION

(By The Associated Negro Press)

Tuskegee, Ala., Sept. 8.—What Negro farmers in almost every state in the union are paying for mortgages and other money would break John D. Rockefeller. What they sell their products for would bankrupt Henry Ford. The United States Steel Corporation would go under if forced to pay for supplies, what Negro farmers do.

The above are high-light sentences in a communication just written to T. M. Campbell, in charge of the extension work among Negro farmers in the South, by Charles E. Hall, for many years employed in the United States Census Bureau and one of the foremost statisticians on matters affecting the Negro. Mr. Hall was at one time mentioned for service in the Farm Loan Bureau where it was felt that he could be of service to co-operative groups among Negro farmers.

He complains to Mr. Campbell that all their injuries are due to a failure to come together as the white farmers have done.

According to census figures for 1920, there are colored farmers and owners in every state from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the Lakes to the Gulf, and as owners and tenants they constitute the only group in our race which is doing business on invested capital amounting to two billion dollars a year and more.

"But business men do not suffer from the ills our farmers do," writes Mr. Hall. "Neither do intelligent farmers who through the power or organization get ample mortgage money at the rate of 5½ and 6 per cent on long term loans with no commission or renewal charges. They band together when they buy supplies in order to get wholesale prices, and throughout the nation the farmers are organizing co-operative marketing associations for the purpose of selling their their produce at a profit above the cost of production."

"Congress," he continues, "attempts no legislation affecting agriculture without consulting representatives of national organizations composed of farmers. But during a prolonged residence in Washington I have yet to see or hear of one of our farmers appearing before congressional committees of affairs on matters affecting the welfare and progress of the nearly one million colored farmers.

"They are not called into conference simply because they are an unorganized mass. They either do not know the power of organization, in an age when everybody is organized, or else they vainly hope to gallop down prosperity pike on the back of organized white farmers who are spending time, money and energy to make agriculture an attractive and profitable business."

Colored Farmers Suffer From Lack of Organization

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Agriculture-1925

Mississippi.

Condition of

TENANT WINS CROP.

Court Says Cotton His Even Though He Abandoned It.

SENATOBIA, Miss., Sept. 15.—The rights of a tenant in a crop which he had abandoned were fixed today by Chancellor Sledge when he decided in the case of Pool against McKinnon that the tenant had a fixed right in his crop and that he did not lose that right even where he abandoned it. Pool was working a crop on the shares and when the weather became so dry in June that cotton would not come up, he hied away to Kansas to work in the wheat fields, but when that cotton came up and prospered under the attention of the landlord and grew into a bountiful yield, Pool came back and demanded his crop.

The landlord objected and the difference of opinion found its way into the chancery court. The landlord claimed it was his crop now by possession and having worked it; Pool claimed it was still his although he had deserted it in its infancy and left it to the mercies of the cruel world. The court held that Pool could come back and lay claim to his patch of fleecy staple. It is rather a new point of law for Mississippi although the old Magnolia state has been raising cotton since its earliest days. Judge Dean and Dinkins represented the landlord and Herbert Holmes the tenant.

BURDEN IS TOO HEAVY FOR DELTA PLANTERS

Alfred Stone Prescribes Cure for Chronic Invalids.

CLARKSDALE, Miss., Dec. 6.—Declaring that no agriculture in the world is sufficiently profitable to permanently endure under the present system that is practiced in the Mississippi delta, Alfred Stone of Clarksdale, Miss., vice president of the Staple Cotton Growers' Association, told his audience at Jonestown, Miss., last night that a change must be gradually brought about. Mr. Stone was speaking before the County Federation of Clubs by special invitation and discussed "Agriculture and Its Problems." Mr. Stone declared that the delta farmers were forced to spend too much money for the growing of their crops, for houses, labor, drainage, roads, schools, levees and taxes to make the profit that is justly due the producer. The only real system that will produce a cure for the agricultural interests is for the owner to pay a definite and fixed wage for labor, just as is done in other industries, Mr. Stone stated.

Mr. Stone was invited to speak at the fourth meeting of the Coahoma Federation of Clubs, of which Mrs. John Bell Hood is president. He was presented by Mrs. Hood, who stated that the farmers were similar to chronic invalids and suggested that since Mr. Stone was such an able farmer and financier he could prescribe for the agriculturists as a family physician.

Mr. Stone has resided in Washington County for 55 years. For 34 years he has been a farmer. He told his audience that the spot where his plantation now stands was once a 165 acre slough that never went dry. He traced the progress of agriculture by declaring that a fine concrete road now stood where once was the slough.

In discussing the present system that prevails in the delta he declared that the reward for the labor undertaken by the planter was not commensurate with the risks. He referred to the mortgage conditions that existed in the south for years, both before and after the Civil War, and the fact that such conditions now prevailed in the delta. He stated no section could permanently prosper when the people lived beyond their incomes and where frugality and thrift were not practiced and obligations were not discharged.

Co-operative Growth.

In discussing the Staple Cotton Association, Mr. Stone declared that it was born out of necessity. He told how manufacturing lends itself to organization, but stated that agriculture had long been considered as an individual enterprise.

"The Staple Cotton Growers was not organized to interfere with legitimate business," said Mr. Stone. "It was perfected to stabilize the markets of the world." He told how the association was being investigated by the Bureau of National Economics and stated that nothing wrong had been found with the organization. He declared if the Staple Association could handle one-half the crop of the delta that all the delta obligations could promptly be discharged.

Mr. Stone declared that in eliminating waste alone, the association had been able to care for all salaries of the officers of the association. He declared if the baleage of the association were doubled it would not cost a dime to handle the association's business. He illustrated how the association had been a clearing house for the mills of the country and told how in numerous ways real service had been rendered to both the consumer and the producer.

When asked what would be the solution of the labor problem in the delta, he said frankly he did not know. He declared the bringing into this section of the Mexicans might prove a nucleus. He told how several families had finished their contracts near his plantation, but stated they had declared they would not return to Mexico, but expected to stay in the delta and make a crop another year. He stated, however, that it was practically agreed that the Mexicans had not given satisfaction.

Hold Low Grade Cotton.

When asked about the price regarding low grade cotton, Mr. Stone declared that Mr. Garrard of Greenwood believed that this cotton had a better future. He advised against dumping it. He said the association had taken up the matter with the agencies in Liverpool, Canada, and other points and that an effort was being made to find an outlet for it.

He declared it was probable that it could be used to manufacture fabric tires in the place of the Egyptian cotton.

Mr. Stone stated he had not had great success with fertilizer. He stated he did not know the extent of the value be used for this purpose rather than sold for $13 or $14 per ton. He stated he had practiced using narrow rows, close spacing and better seed to take the place of fertilizer. He declared that for years he had used tons and tons of hulls from the gin, but that he had never been able to determine whether or not it had increased the fertility of the soil.

The programme was opened by Mrs. Hood, who presented Mrs. Thomas Haywood Dickey of Clarksdale, who sang "Trees." Mrs. Hood explained the purpose of the county federation, which is composed of all the men's and women's organizations of Coahoma, stating that the federation would work for the common good of all. At the close of the meeting a round table discussion was held and Mr. Stone answered questions on agriculture.

Agriculture—1925

General.

Condition of.

WARNS COTTON MEN OF WORLD RIVALRY

Chamber of Commerce Declares the South Must Awaken to Foreign Competition.

SAYS IT CAN HOLD ITS OWN

Cut in Production Costs by Getting Larger Yields Per Acre Is One Step Urged.

OFFICIALS SURVEY TRADE

Cloth Exports Improve Very Little in a Decade—Spindle Activity Has Increased Lately.

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—While there is no immediate danger that the United States will lose its position of dominance in the cotton markets of the world, the situation, nevertheless, "demands more aggressive efforts to stabilize production," says a report on the world cotton situation issued today by the Agricultural Bureau of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

The report says that the steady decline in production in the United States, accompanied by the increase in price of the American staple, has been reflected in increasing activity on the part of the foreign Governments to develop potential cotton areas outside of America."

The statement is made that there is no just cause for apprehension that foreign countries will greatly encroach upon the established American industry of producing cotton in the very near future, and that it is wholly within the power of this country to forestall such competition.

There also is a slowing down of demand for finished cotton mill products, the committee says.

One way to stabilize production is by means of increased yields per acre, the report declares. This, it is pointed out, automatically would reduce production costs and give the grower a just margin of profit, as well as permitting cotton to sell at a price which would tend to increase consumption.

Labor Shortage a Serious Obstacle.

"The most serious obstacles in the path of increased cotton production in the United States," it is added, "are adverse weather conditions, the boll-weevil, a labor shortage and poor farming. It is estimated that for the past six years the South annually has failed to produce 4,000,000 bales of cotton as a direct result of the cotton boll-weevil. While calcium arsenate has been proven to be an efficient agent for the control of the weevil, in 1923 less than 5 per cent. of the total cotton acreage of the South was treated with this poison.

"Early Fall destruction of cotton stalks is an economical means of reducing weevil damage the following year. As yet a relatively small percentage of cotton planters practice this. In many sections of the South climatic conditions prevent early Fall plowing of stalks as a weevil-control measure. There is need for a cheaper poison than calcium arsenate at the present market price for the benefit of the marginal producer of cotton.

"Many cotton-producing areas in the South show serious depletion of soil fertility, due primarily to one-crop farming. There is need for reorganization of farm practice in the cotton belt to the end of restoring soil fertility and eliminating some of the hazards of the single crop farming. A wider use of legumes and better land drainage would prove of great benefit."

In discussing the labor problem, the report says that, "due to a steady migration of cotton belt negroes to industrial centres of the North and East, there has developed an acute labor shortage in this region of the United States. Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Mississippi perhaps have lost more heavily of negro labor than any of the other States. In 1922-23, 478,700 negroes are estimated to have migrated from the South. This migration still is under way."

In figures on cotton production, the report states, the costs vary widely, the determining factor being rate of yield per acre.

"The available data," the committee declares, "show that this cost runs from $1.45 a pound for lint for yields of twenty pounds of lint and under per acre to 9 cents a pound for yields of 500 pounds and over.

"Cheaper cotton from the standpoint of production costs will be produced in the South when per-acre yields are increased, not necessarily through an increase of acreage planted to the staple. The present tendency, however, is toward an increased acreage rather than toward increased yields per acre."

Government Makes Textile Survey.

A survey just made by Edward T. Pickard, Chief of the Textile Division of the Department of Commerce, shows that the international trade of the United States in textile fibres and manufactures is valued at 25 per cent. of the total trade.

"Sharing to this substantial extent in our foreign trade," says Mr. Pickard, "is extremely gratifying and is a tribute to American textile enterprise, but it also bespeaks a deep responsibility in international economics and commerce. The remotest areas as well as the world's commercial capitals are sensitive to the pulsations of American business, and we, in turn, should study all factors involving the supply and demand of world's markets."

American exports of cotton cloths, while slightly above last year in yardage, have shown little improvement over a decade ago. To a minor extent, the reduced consumption of cotton goods throughout the world may be attributed to a change in fashion or in the habit of the consuming public, but the basic reason, Mr. Pickard says, still rests in the inability of the world to measure per capita purchasing power with materially increased cloth values.

The best markets for the American exporters continue to be those in Latin America, Canada, the insular possessions, the Near East, Persian Gulf, Australia, Asia and South Africa.

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The outlook for the cotton spinning industries throughout the world is much brighter, says Mr. Pickard, especially in England, Italy and the United States. Last July, in the United States, there were about 28,710,000 spindles active, as compared with 34,240,000 active during July, 1923. In November, 1924, however spindle activity had increased to 31,800,000, and while this is considerably below the 34,125,000 of November, 1923 a steady monthly improvement is being reported.

Exports of raw cotton from the United States are also much improved over a year ago and are approximately 800,000 bales in excess of the four months' period from July 1 to Nov. 30, 1923. The world crop for the cotton year 1924-25 is much in excess of that a year ago. The latest reports indicate it to be 23,300,000 bales of about 478 pounds each, which is more than 5,000,000 bales better than last year's world crops. This, Mr. Pickard believes, will stimulate yarn and cloth production in India, China and on the Continent, while Great Britain has already shown an increase in activity consequent to more substantial sales in her export market.

COTTON: MASTER OR SERVANT.

In an ever increasing area of the South bankers are saying to farmers: "We can't lend you money to buy food stuff and feedstuff", or, "We will lend you money to make a crop provided you will balance the crop and avoid the error of plunging on cotton, or on any other one thing."

In many sections, notably—so we are informed—in the Piedmont of North Carolina, farmers restrict their cotton task to six acres to the [illegible] w. They expect to work this intensively remaining energies are given over to the production of things for man and beast to eat—not necessarily for the markets of the world, but to keep the producer himself from going too much to market to buy things which he can have much cheaper by growing them himself.

It is the common belief of agricultural experts that production per acre can be measurably increased. Wherever this is done, it is done economically; profits are greater because the cost is less. It is the common belief of agricultural experts that every farmer can and should himself grow the food and feed staples used on the farm—that is, corn, meat, peas, beans, oats, etc.

The problem of finding a market for surplus food and feedstuff has discouraged countless farmers in Alabama; but the problem of staying out of the market for these things is not so difficult to solve. Cotton is our money crop; has long been, and will continue to be so; but cotton cannot alone answer our every need. It will buy a good deal, but it cannot buy everything, and still leave a profit in the grower's pocket. It cannot, and it is unjust to expect it to do so, buy, economically, the food staples of the man who produces it.

The farmers of Alabama owe it to themselves to think seriously of these familiar dicta at this hour. The South has just grown a 13,000,000 bale crop of cotton, and although the price has remained well above 20 cents throughout the season, many farmers have been disappointed at the price. We dare say those who have been most disappointed at the prevailing price, are those who have made the heaviest demands upon the purchasing and carrying power of cotton. They are those who have expected their cotton to buy meat and bread and feeds for farm animals, and still return a profit. That farmer who has made his cre produce all it could by intensive cultivation, that farmer who has made his acre produce all it other farm staples, must have operated at a reasonable profit.

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The Advertiser trusts that Alabama farmers will not make it impossible for cotton to return them a profit this year.

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DISAPPOINTMENTS OF COTTON FARMING IN THE SOUTH.

Contrary to the prevalent impression outside of the trade only a little more than half of the world's cotton is grown in the South. The estimated total world cotton crop the current year is placed at 26,600,000 bales, while the generally accepted forecast for the Southern States is 13,000,000 bales. This it is seen that more than ten million bales of the staple is produced in other regions of the agricultural globe and that while the South holds undisputed pre-eminence in cotton production, there would still be some cotton left for the manufacturers to fight over, should the farmer go on a "strike" and decline to daily further with this frequently unprofitable crop. India, Egypt, Australia, Provinces of Russia, Mexico and several of the islands of Oceana make important contributions to the world's raw cotton supplies, while Brazil and Argentina and other South American countries help in a substantial way to swell the total production.

Threats are continually heard that the South's supremacy in cotton growing will be wrested from her and that the spinning world will establish its independence of this field, but such a development need not be regarded as particularly menacing at the present time. The outstanding agricultural need in the South is not the abandonment of cotton, but the adoption of a system by which it may be profitably grown. The production of less than a hundred pounds of seed cotton to the acre, which is the record made by Alabama in 1923, according to the Federal census, points the way not only to bankruptcy but to disaster. If the Southern farmer remains wedded to his idols and continues to grow cotton with such a result, he would shorten his miseries by sending for the sheriff before embarking upon his yearly adventure.—Selma Times-Journal.

DIVERSIFIED CROPS URGED OF FARMERS

Joint Conference Declares Cotton Insufficient Collateral For Loaning Money

MEMPHIS, TENN., Feb. 9.—Steps to induce farmers of the South to diversify their crops and not plant too much acreage in cotton, but more in food and feed crops, were taken at a conference of bankers and agricultural leaders from Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas in session here today.

The representatives attending the conference adopted resolutions in which they declare that money loaned to finance cotton growing is not properly protected until crops are diversified so as to insure the raising of sufficient crops of food to care for stock during the winter months and a portion of the needs of the table.

The resolutions recommend that a supplementary or secondary money crop be grown on each farm in addition to cotton, which they recognize as the principal product raised from a financial standpoint. As a means of bringing this about, it is recommended that business and professional men, farmers and agriculture workers get together in every county in the three states and work out an agricultural program in keeping with the plans expressed at the conference.

INCREASE SHOWN IN WORLD COTTON

Estimate on 1924 Crop 24,700,000 Bales Against 19,590,000 in 1923

WASHINGTON, April 29.—The world cotton crop harvested in 1924 is estimated at 24,700,000 bales of 478 pounds in revised figures issued today by the Department of Agriculture.

This compares with 19,590,000 bales for 1923. For the principal producing countries the revised figures compared with 1923 are:

United States 13,619,000 bales against 10,139,670.

India 5,069,000 vs. 4,332,300.

Egypt 1,540,000 vs. 1,353,000.

Mexico 281,000 vs 175,000.

Preliminary estimates of the acreage planted in cotton for the 1924 crop were fixed at 79,100,000 as compared with 71,200,000.

THE PROBLEM OF THE BLACK BELT

It is very interesting, but not very encouraging, to read the advertising columns of the many farm papers of the North, East and West, and to be on the "mailing list" of the developing railroads and various selling agencies of Canada, the Northwest, Florida and other sections that are spending great sums of money and perfecting high-power organizations to attract farmers to lands that now lie idle.

Because we hear so much of the "East Coast" and the "West Coast" of Florida, we sometimes forget that this peninsula on our south has more than fifty-five million acres of land, only a very small part of which is divided into city lots. There are millions of acres that are either covered with timber or that have recently become "cut-over" lands, and these lands, in many instances, can be bought at from $2.00 to $5.00 per acre, a small cash payment and easy terms offering inducements to people from every section of the country who have learned to think of Florida as a land where the sun shines always and the flowers bloom the year round.

North of us is that great undeveloped empire, Canada, where the Canadian government and the transcontinental railroads are offering virgin lands to home seekers. From $5.00 to $20.00 for virgin soil, with heavy grain crops and increasing possibilities for livestock, makes many who have the spirit of adventure forget the rigors of winter and the snows and ice that make for a short growing season and a long period of feeding.

Since the earliest day of history, men have sought "virgin" soils. The "kick" in the land, the possibilities of great yields, the gambler's chance for enhancement of value count for more than the hardships and failures of those who became the pioneers of this country. Low prices, easy payments, a low rate of interest, highly organized selling agencies, these and a thousand more things are reaching out to attract people to a "new country" where adventure offers profits.

There was a day when the New England farmer was the most frugal and the most productive farmer of the nation. But the soils have lost their fertility and industry has stripped the farms of their labor. Today nearly all of New England is for sale to the lowest bidder.

It was but a few years ago when an appreciation of real values was lost to the young man who desired a farm in the corn belt of the great Central West. It made little difference whether Iowa lands were priced at two or three hundred dollars an acre. Credit was cheap. The Federal Farm Loan Banks, the great insurance companies and private capital were engaged in the wild scramble to see who could make the most loans, based on the highest values, on the most attractive terms.

It was not unusual to find a farm of 160 acres, with improvements costing $150 an acre, and the farmer felt rather a peculiar pride in telling his neighbor that he had paid five thousand dollars for a pure-bred bull or had purchased other sires at proportionate prices.

But between planting and harvesting time the "bottom fell out" of values. Farms became only places upon which to grow crops to be sold at low prices, fancy livestock lost the charm of pedigrees and were measured on the scales at low values, loans began to fall due and there were ten farms for sale; yes, a hundred offered for sale, where there was one purchaser, and more serious than all, the one purchaser was no longer able to find any one who wanted to make him a loan for the purpose of buying farm lands.

When the crash first came we were disinterested observers of the woes of others, but "pay day" is now at hand in the South and the foreclosure of mortgages is filling space in the legal columns of the papers of every section.

A few weeks ago the president of the oldest and largest farm loan company in Georgia contributed a page article in an Atlanta paper, telling the story of abandoned farms and foreclosed mortgages in the State of Georgia. Over in Mississippi few new loans are being made and the loan companies are finding it cheaper to extend loans without the payment of interest than to take over farms and pay taxes. Values in Tennessee and Kentucky have declined to such an extent as to wipe out wealth that was measured by "equities."

With plenty of fertilizer and dry summers the red table lands and lighter soils of Alabama seem to offer our cotton farmer more of success than any other agricultural section in the country, but what of the possibility of late springs and rainy summers?

In our prairie belt, and the Black Belt of Alabama has for years been the backbone of Montgomery, we needs must have early spring and late summer, an abundance of labor and high prices if cotton is to be even a distant relative of the king that once reigned in this section.

The negro has always been the cotton maker and the cotton picker of the Black Belt. The negro is becoming a "hill-billy." Fifty thousand negroes have left the Alabama Black Belt since 1910. Those who still love the farm, and their number is growing less each year, are going to the hills and light soils, where the land owner bets his banker on a wet April, a dry May, a moist June and a July and August that are as hot as hot can be and as dry as bone dust. He is going where commercial fertilizer is bought by car loads and where soils are light enough to permit of early planting, intensive cultivation, quick maturity and open cotton before the boll weevil begins his march that beat hell out Sherman's destructive raid.

It seems evident that the Black Belt of Alabama must become, as nature so intended, a section largely devoted to dairy and livestock, clovers and hay, pastures and grain.

Only white men who make the farm a home develop agriculture of this kind. These men are low buyers, industrious and frugal. They are soil-builders, but knowing that soil building is a slow process, they expect and demand cheap lands.

Men shift from section to section. Man is naturally a nomad, but he shifts in the direction of opportunity. He goes where lands are cheap and where others who profit by his disposition to change, lead him.

Canada has a greater area than the United Sttes. They have less than one-tenth of our population. There lands are fresh and fertile and cheap. Florida is of greater area than Alabama. Her climate is alluring, imaginative, compelling and the pioneer can buy at from $2.00 to $5.00 in many counties, and Florida has less than half the population of Alabama.

Alabama has greater opportunities than these other sections, and the Black Belt of Alabama has much to offer, but it may be

Agriculture – 1925
Condition of

New York

Visitors From Columbia University

The Cotton Farmer
9-19-25
Scott Delta Miss.
Scott Bolivar County

Mr. Frank A. Ross and Mr. Arthur F. Burns of COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, New York City are making a tour of the Cotton Belt surveying economical condition of the cotton toilers and the business men interested in and financing cotton production, for the benefit of the research department of their university. They are in the Delta & Pine Land Company. **Of course it being the largest and best cotton producing cotton plantation in the world, they could get some very valuable information here, as to economical condition. The books here, the method of doing business, the plantations, and the tenants homes, are all an open book free to be looked into by any worthwhile people on a righteous mission.** Upon their invitation the Editor of the Cotton Farmer had an interview with them. So far as he could divine, in conversation with these highly educated and well trained minds, their main survey is to ascertain the cause of the migration of our people from the South to the North. The editor of this paper has stood single handed and alone on the proposition that the imigration was greatly exagerated and that the coming census will not show so large a loss of our people as was claimed by the labor agents, working for the plutocrats who were luring our people to the north for the purpose of using them as a buffer group between the reasonably well paid white labor and the Captains of Industry and **that for the most part the loss occurred in the towns and cities and from an element of our people we could and gladly spare.**. It is true that in the rush a few of worthwhile people here and there joined in the march. Many were lured in search of the place where work was light and pay great, as they were led to believe and where there were no restrictions of any kind and where every man had equal rights and there were no lynchings. **Lynchings of course played a good part in induucing some of our worthwhile people to people to leave and the lack of good schools also played a part in carrying away some of our worthwhile people, but for the masses it is the honest opinion of this paper neither cut any figure.**

We have a great country and the remedy for whatever ills we suffer is in the hands of the worth while white and colored people to the manner born. **What we for the most part need is good schools and a religious service devoid of African Jungle barbarism. Let credit be granted to whom credit is due and the worth while of our race be encouraged instead of discouraged...**

Agriculture – 1925.
Condition of.

New Jersey.

The Negro and Dairying.

Cordele Dispatch: It should be noted by dairy farmers that one of the recent top-producers among the Jersey herds of this county was tended by a negro boy. We have no idea that the average negro farmer in the South is equipped to take care of a fine dairy herd. But that is also true of the average white farmer.

It will not be easy for the negro farmer to understand dairying, but it is possible for him to understand and make a success of it. Slothful, lazy, run-down-at-the-heel methods will not do on the dairy farm. The negro who is thrifty and energetic can be a good dairy farmer. He can succeed at that as well as any other farming. His standard of work, of sanitation about the dairy, of feeding, and of producing feed may be made to meet the requirement by training.

The negro farmer who is willing to work is usually a good farmer. Where he is dependable and reliable and has a family to maintain, we hope his white friends will not be slow about giving him a chance to do something with farming as it can be done with dairy cattle.

Agriculture-1925
Condition of.

Missouri.

Mississippi After Cotton Pickers

Kansas City, Mo.—"Anything to get our cotton picked," is the motto of Mississippi farmers who inserted the following advertisement in local papers:

"Cotton pickers wanted! We want 50 colored cotton pickers at once; men with families or single.

We ship Monday night at 6 p. m. for Clarksville, Miss.

It will be cold in Kansas City soon and jobs will be very scarce. We pay your fare there where you can work all winter."

Agriculture-1925.
Condition of.

Maryland.

Tobacco Growing Urged On Maryland Colored Farmers

Ridge, Md.—Education for black and white alike which would show farmers how to improve the soil instead of bleeding it to death, how to work with and for each other inorder that all mght have a comfortable income and better living conditions, was emphasized by officers of the Tobacco Growers' Association of Southern Maryland at a meeting held at the Cardinal Gibbons Institute, here, a Catholic school for colored youth, of which Victor Daniel is principal.

Joseph Mattingly, president; Dr. Burch, vice president; and G. Gardner, secretary and manager, were the speakers. The meeting was primarily to interest colored farmers in tobacco growing and cooperative marketing.

Principal Daniel welcomed the visitors and irls of the institute served diner to fifteen officers of the association.

A pre-Health Week Campaign conducted through the English and science classes was effective and won response from the community. Dr. Aaron Russel of Washington will conduct dental clinics and Principal Daniel has offered a silver cup for the cleanest and most attractive back yard, including wells and outside lavatories. Posters at the church, parochial school, stores postoffice and and institute have attracted much attention.

An increase in the number of white children attending neighboring school has been attributed to the influence of the Cardinal Gibbons Institute.

Agriculture — 1925
Condition of

Michigan.

NEW HAVEN CONN. REGISTER
JANUARY 18, 1925

Warning About Buying Lands in Michigan

According to advice issued from the Division of Negro Welfare and Statistics, Department of Labor and Industry of Michigan, that state has large tracts of farming land of good quality for the agriculturally inclined who plan to enter within its borders in the next two or three years.

A warning is sounded, however, to the too trustful purchaser, that the buying of Michigan lands should be attended with great caution, as there are millions of acres of waste land in the state unfit for cultivation. Until the Division of Negro Welfare and Statistics was established by the state, the sale of these worthless lands to gullible Negroes had gone practically unchecked, to the extent that in certain portions of the state there are colonies of Negroes settled on land too sterile to even provide a living for them.

For the protection of the prospective buyer, the 1923 Michigan Legislature passed Act 292, known as the Land Certification Act, to provide for the state certification of all lands for sale. Every real estate dealer who desires to come under the provisions of this act can be listed with the state as accredited, and is required to furnish the prospect with a map and detailed report of the soil and its adaptability, certified to by an approved land examiner.

Every person considering a purchase of Michigan lands is warned to deal only with accredited dealers and buy only certified lands. For further information write C. A. Campbell Division of Negro Welfare and Statistics, Department of Labor and Industry Lansing, Michigan.

Agriculture — 1925
Condition of.

Florida.

NEGLECTED OPPORTUNITIES

Florida spends $7,500,000 outside the state annually for poultry alone. We consume $20,427,65 worth of beef and veal, of which only $6,623,544 is produced in this state. We consume more than $25,000,000 worth of pork and bacon, more than $19,000,000 of which is shipped into this state.

Florida consumes each year more than $4,000,000 of lard, only little more than $1,000,000 of which is produced in this state. Of the $31,000,000 worth of dairy products consumed in Florida, only $7,000,000 worth is produced in the state.

Montgomery Advertiser

More than $1,500,000 worth of lamb and mutton is imported annually.

Altogether Florida pays $100,623,070 yearly for foods that could be produced in West Florida, not taking into consideration the rest of the state.

There is no reason why West Florida should not raise at least $5,000,000 worth of poultry. Here and there in various communities and sections hatcheries have been established and poultry farms are doing a good business, but nothing to equal what should be the case.—Pensacola Journal.

9-21-25

Little of this chicken and egg money from Florida came into Alabama. Alabama didn't produce enough chickens and eggs for its own use. None of this Florida money went for beef grown in Alabama, though no doubt some of it paid for Alabama-grown pork and pork products—but not as much as might have been. Florida may have bought some Alabama dairy products, but not many.

Montgomery Ala. Journal

Alabama needs to grow more hogs, more chickens, more sheep and make more dairy products, because it is that kind of State, and the market for such products usually is good.

Agriculture—1925

Alabama.

Condition of

Anniston, Ala., Star

AUG 3 - 1925

Negro Tenant Farmer And The Flivver Not a Good Combination

Increasing use of automobiles by negro farmers is looked upon by the Prattville Progress with misgivings. The Progress sees trouble in store for the negroes of Autauga county who buy "second-hand automobiles, ride as much as possible at night and get by with as little work as possible in the day." The comment of the Progress on the rather unusual situation being created in that part of agricultural Alabama by the negro's eagerness to own and use an automobile, is interesting. It says:

> In the river beats of Autauga county more money is being spent on automobiles and gasoline by the negroes than was spent 15 years ago on commercial fertilizer and all the necessaries to make a crop. With the boll weevils and the uncertainties of a crop The Progress fails to see how this can long continue. It will bankrupt any section or any farmer. The ambition of the average negro tenant now is not to improve his home, his farm, his church, or lay aside some money for a rainy day, but to own a second hand automobile, ride as much as possible at night and work as little as he can get by with in the day. The upkeep of his automobile and the gasoline amount to more than the amount formerly spent on the support of his family. With the advanced cost of living how long can he maintain a car and support his family? It will bankrupt any land owner who undertakes to help him maintain both.

A somewhat similar situation is developing in other Alabama counties. Whether the result predicted by the Prattville paper will be experienced in other counties is yet to be seen, but the negroes unquestionably are taking to the automobile with eagerness and they are not all buying second-hand cars. The negro who can afford to own and run an automobile cannot be criticised for doing so. That is his business, but it is doubtful if many negroes who are tenant farmers can afford the luxury of a car.

It is well known that many white people have cars who have very little of anything else and that it keeps them under a cloud of debt to own and run their cars. A very large number of white people own cars who cannot afford to own them, and it therefore is reasonable to think that the negro who goes into debt for a car and keeps in debt to run it, will in the end come to grief. The slower-going horse and buggy fits the purse of the negro tenant farmer much better than the joy-riding automobile, whether the latter is a new or second-hand vehicle, just as it fits the purse of the white man who cannot afford to buy and burn gasoline.

THE BLACK BELT AND TAX EXEMPTION

Editor The Advertiser:

We have a real problem before us today in the farm lands of the black belt of Alabama. Unless some changes are made the Joint Stock Land Banks and the loan companies will own most of the farm lands depleted of timber, houses and tenants. We need more real farmers financed along sound business principles, but we cannot expect to sell these lands when we have no houses suitable to live in; and at the present rate at which the timber is being cut, we will soon have no timber with which to build houses.

Our State should protect the young timber, and exempt from taxation for a period of twenty years, all land growing timber. A farmer with a thousand acres of land of which only one hundred acres are in cultivation, cannot be expected to meet his interest and increasing taxes each year. A plan might be worked out along these lines if each farmer would list his idle lands and agree to protect the growing timber for a period of twenty years.

To encourage the farmers to improve their lands and build houses all farm improvements should be exempt from taxation for a period of ten years. If this was done we could induce capital to come in and buy our idle lands, put aside so much for growing timber and subdivide and sell the other in improved farms to industrious and land loving people. If good farmers could buy these lands with some land cleared, the houses built, etc., they could move on the lands and begin producing; but if they have to do all of the improving before they begin producing they become demoralized, financially embarrassed and are ready to give up and move. Today if a farmer paints his houses, builds a few new barns and farms as he should to produce a fair crop, his taxes are raised to such an extent that it is impossible for him to earn a living. Our agricultural section must be developed, and if we are not able to improve our lands ourselves we should sell them at a price which will enable others to buy and improve them.

We have built more houses in the cities than we will ever need unless we can induce more manufacturing plants to come to Alabama. We must make some concessions and offer some inducements if we wish to bring in outside businesses, and if we wish to see Alabama grow and develop, as North Carolina has done. Alabama has every natural resource and it is up to us to take advantage of them. The accomplishment of these things must be brought about through team work. Work wins every time. Capital and labor are knocking at our door seeking admittance to help us improve and develop our State. It is up to us to open the door, take them in and help them succeed. All new farm improvements and new industrial plants should be exempt for ten years.

W. W. THOMPSON

Montgomery, Ala., March 2.

A GREAT NEED AND A GREAT OPPORTUNITY

The State of Alabama, through its Convict Department, has a wonderful opportunity to make a tremendous contribution to a large portion of Alabama. This department of the State has demonstrated its excellent efficiency in many ways and in no way more than by the application of intelligent farming methods. Methods of cultivation employed, profits made from the State farms, selection of seed and business-like marketing have proved that the State can find men who will employ the same intelligence and integrity to the State's work than is found in the best organized private business.

The farming done by the State, however, has been done on that class of soil that has proven to be the safest and best lands for general farming, especially where cotton is the chief crop. Red table lands and gray sandy lands with good clay foundation, yield great crops when properly cultivated and fertilized and some of the best and most profitable farming in the State is being done on such soils.

There is a great, crying need for systematic demonstrations to be made throughout the Black Belt counties on what is commonly known as our "prairie" soils. The efficient men in charge of the State Convict Department could and should lend their ability to helping solve some of the problems of the farmers in the Black Belt counties.

The State can well afford to purchase a reasonably large farm at some central point in the Black Belt, located so as to be easily accessible by rail and highway to the people of the Black Belt and at the same time close enough to Camp Kilby to permit of the use of convict labor. On such a place deep plowing, the planting of cover crops and soil building by the use of legumes can be practiced by the State to the profit of many of our people. The day has come when there must be a greater use of farm machinery in the South. Many of our people do not know just what machinery is best adapted and we have not yet learned that we must employ machinery if we compete with those agricultural sections that cultivate more acres to the man than is usual in the South.

The Black Belt counties can easily be made to produce an abundance of oats and other small grains. These counties are blessed with a great variety of native clovers and grasses and are therefore natural pasture lands. Throughout most of this section there is plenty of water and a long grazing season. There is no other section of the State that can produce Johnson grass hay and Alfalfa as easily and profitably as the eleven counties that run from the east to the west across Central Alabama—the counties that are generally known as the Black Belt. This should easily become the great dairy section of the South, if not the entire country, but this will come only when our people have learned to produce more grain, pasture and hay to the acre, and when there are enough white men on the farms to make possible community life.

For many years the vital question was markets, but this is about solved. The Cotton Association is intelligently handling much of the cotton produced; the Hay Association, together with the Extension Service, has worked cut a system of grading hay and finding a market based on the established grades; Union Springs, Montgomery, Selma and Demopolis, the "spinal" towns of the Black Belt counties, have well established creameries and at Montgomery there are creameries, ice cream plants, milk depots and a large condensery and whole milk plant under construction.

But the Black Belt counties need the assistance of the State in working out their problems. They are not beggars and only ask for such help as will be constructive and to the best interest of the entire people. They believe a State demonstration farm in the Black Belt, where dairying, beef cattle, sheep, hay, grain and other forage crops can be produced under the direction of the State Convict Department, will prove a profitable operation for the State, employ a reasonable number of convicts at suitable work and so increase the tax values of a considerable portion of the State as to materially enrich the State treasury.

The eleven Black Belt counties—Bullock, Montgomery, Lowndes, Dallas, Perry, Hale, Greene, Marengo, Sumter, and Wilcox, have an area of about 5,445,760 acres. These counties have a population of 375,000. From 1910 to 1920 all but one of these counties showed a loss in population. All but five showed a loss in population from 1900 to 1910.

The loss in population from 1910 to 1920 ranged from 1.6 per cent in Montgomery county to more than 16 per cent in Bullock, 20 per cent in Greene, 20 per cent in Lowndes, 18 per cent in Perry.

Such continued loss of population must sooner or later materially concern the taxing wealth of the State. The losses would have been greater in all of these counties if the cities and towns had not shown a material increase in population.

There are no finer people in all the world than the people of the Black Belt counties. There are no lands that can be made to produce more of the products adapted to these heavy lands, if proper methods are worked out to meet present conditions.

But this great area of more than five million acres has less than 100,000 white people and less than 26,000 white men, including the towns and cities of eleven counties.

Surely the State has an opportunity to meet a great need when the Black Belt, including its towns and cities, has but one white man to 210 acres.

A demonstration farm operated by the State would not only be worth millions to the land owners and farmers of the Black Belt counties, but such a farm would so enhance in value as to prove a splendid investment for the State in a few years. If intelligent methods applied by the State can enhance the values of the farm it operates, a corresponding enhancement of values will come to the owners of the lands throughout these counties.

COTTON PRODUCTION UNDER BOLL WEEVIL CONDITIONS

That the production of cotton under present boll weevil conditions resolves itself into a race between early maturity and the boll weevil is a fact well recognized by all familiar with the situation. That farmers are becoming habituated to the necessity for early planting and rushing the plant to a rapid maturity is borne out by recent statistics for the past three seasons.

On November 1, 1923,, only seven and one-half million bales had been ginned to that date. On November 1, 1924, nine and three-quarters million bales had been ginned, while on November 1 of this year over eleven million bales had been ginned. While, however, it must be borned emphatically in mind that 1924 had a moderately early fall ripening, and 1925 had an abnormally early ripening crop; in fact the earliest ever known; still this early ripening can not be attributed to dry seasons in 1924 and 1925 alone. Although it is known that cotton is a dry land crop and that all crops will ripen faster in a dry season than in a cold, wet, backward season; nevertheless, cotton must be planted early in order to ripen early, and the early ripening of cotton is now sought for as a general procedure by all farmers.

Experience in Montgomery county, as elsewhere, has demonstrated beyond argument that the successful production of cotton under boll weevil conditions demands the fortunate coordination of a considerable number of agricultural conditions. These conditions in general are as follows: (1) The soil must be preferably sandy and well drained, for such soils are the warmest, quickest and most responsive to tillage and plant growing conditions; (2) Early maturing varities must be planted since all late ripening bolls are merely boll weevil fodder; (3) By careful fertilization designed to hasten this growth, especially the use of potash and phosphate with only a moderate amount of nitrogen, enough to secure a low, bushy, stocky plant; (4) By frequent tillage in order to conserve a dust mulch and kill as many weevils as possible by covering.

Farmers have found in this latitude that poisoning may be profitable if carried on in a systematic manner up to the time of the annual migration of the weevil, which begins in August. Poisoning, however, has not been practiced long enough to put it on the plane of an established scientific procedure. As an exact matter of fact, much remains yet to be learned concerning cotton production under boll weevil conditions, and while farmers and experimenters have learned a great deal in the first ten years of weevil infestation in Alabama, it cannot be said that cotton production, in all respects, has been placed upon a well recognized scientific fasis. It sems safe to assume that in ten years more, the various experimental authorities, who combine and work with farmers, will have secured enough information from all sources to place cotton production on an established basis.

Although cotton production will again be founded on a well recognized basis, it can never again be placed on as secure a basis as prevailed in pre-boll weevil days. It is true that the greater the number of factors of uncertainty, the greater the problem of production. Previous to 1915 the annual sum of climatic conditions was to a very great extent the controlling factor of limitation in cotton production. Not only do all former limitations still hold with equal force, but to these is now added a further complexity due to this insect pest. Therefore, cotton production may never again prove as easy a problem for farmers or crop statisticians, due to this greater complexity of limiting factors.

There is no crop in Alabama as important as cotton and there is no crop surrounded by so many perils of production as cotton. Until the weevil is conquered, if ever, production must always be surrounded by a host of limiting factors whose influence cannot be estimated far in advance. It seems true also that the problem of statisticians may be increasingly complicated through this multiplied complexity of limiting conditions, although in 1924 the cotton estimates were within one-half of one per cent of correct, which is a marvelous record when the innumerable conditions and complications are considered.

Agriculture - 1925

North Carolina.

Condition of

SAYS MILLIONS OF CAROLINIANS HAVE NO HOMES OR LAND

White Share-Croppers Far Out-number Colored, Declares Dr. Brinson of the University of N. Carolina.

SAYS LIKE CONDITION PERMEATES SOUTH

Contrary to accepted opinion Negro share-croppers in North Carolina are far in the minority of the whites, according to Dr. E. C. Brinson, of the faculty of the University of North Carolina, who in a recent address before the public welfare institutes at Chapel Hill, N. C., made the startling declaration that 1,241,000 citizens of the State do not own a single inch of ground they cultivate nor a shingle of the roof over their heads.

White Problem

"The problem of excessive tenancy, which is the problem of the landless and homeless countryman, is not a Negro problem but is primarily a white problem; for throughout the South the white tenants and croppers outnumber the Negroes. Three-fourths of all the farmers are tenants. They move from pillar to post, from Dan to Bersheba and back again. They make a restless, roving, irresponsible element of citizenship. They seem to present a hopeless problem. But it is one which you cannot forget. If you have any real religion in you, you cannot give up the problem. The children of these tenants present such a picture of neglect that if you are really interested in the slightest in making this little earth called a safer place for children to be born into, you must help to solve," declared Dr. Brinson.

"The problem of the landless, homeless people of the state is one which must be reckoned with some day," he continued. "Our civilization is so grounded in the home loving, home owning instinct that the remedy will come through creating a more satisfying civilization, especially a satisfying country civilization, for a large proportion of our landless, homeless population live in the open country."

Compares Denmark

Dr. Branson compared conditions in North Carolina with those in Denmark, where he lately spent many months. "There are," he said, "no problems of home ownership nor are there problems of illiteracy. They have instilled within their very beings a thrift which compels them to own their own homes. This feeling for the essential power of thrift is largely lacking among our American people today. They see the immediate needs and forget that they should be willing to forego them in view of more permanent things. The average American sees what he wants and gets it, whether it be bread, bonnets or paragoric. It is from this widespread lack of thrift that our own problem of farm and home ownership arises.

DONATE LAND FOR NEGROES

Asheville, N. C. Times

This Clipping From

Four Thousand Acres in Aggregate

SEP 27 1925

More than 4,000 acres of farm land have been donated by negroes of the upper section of Rutherford county for distribution among others of their race on a homestead plan, according to E. W. Pearson, local negro real estate operator.

The land is to be distributed among the negroes in five, ten and twenty acre farms. The familoes taking up the grants will be able to live on the farms for five years without charge, after which the land may be purchased by them or retained on a rental basis, it is said.

Pearson is secretary of the Buncombe county and district agricultural negro fair which is to be held on the Biltmore fair grounds October 5 to 10.

Included in the fair, according to Pearson, will be various sorts of entertainments, beauty contests, choir contests, string band contests, baby shows, and other exhibitions, it is said. A parade and banquet will be held on Thursday and Friday nights of the week of the fair.

Pearson has issued a general appeal to the negroes of the section that will participate in the fraternal congress and jubilee, to be present and exhibit the various items that they may have for display.

TENANT RATE INCREASES

The increase of tenantry in the United States is a fact that needs to be studied from many viewpoints. In 1880 45 percent of the people of the United States were tenants. In 1900 it had increased to 54 percent, and in 1920 it is estimated at 56 per cent. The percentage is larger in the cities than in the rural districts, but it is increasing more rapidly in the rural districts than in the cities. In the cities in 1880 sixty-one percent were tenants, in 1900 it was 64 percent and in 1920 it is 66 percent. In the country in 1880 it was only 26 percent, in 1900 it had grown to 36 percent, and in 1920 it had reached 40 percent. This situation is important from an economic standpoint. As a rule the people who own their own homes constitute the most substantial citizenship from the material and industrial standpoint. They are far more likely to remain in the same community, and as a rule they will accumulate more wealth. But we believe that the question is more important still from a moral and religious standpoint. It is exceedingly difficult to do effective religious work among a constantly moving class of people. Such people are slower to connect themselves with the Church in any community; they hesitate to connect themselves with the Sunday school, or with any of the organizations of the Church, and they do not become interested in any of the local enterprises of the Church. The home is the foundation of our civilization; and when fifty-six percent of our people have no home of their own, it is a serious situation.—N. C. Christian Advocate.

MECKLENBURG SURVEY

A comprehensive survey of Charlotte and Mecklenburg county will be made this fall by students at the University of North Carolina. C. O. Kuester, business manager of the Chamber of Commerce, yesterday closed negotiations for such a book with E. T. Thompson, instructor in the department of rural social economics at the university.

Mr. Thompson will first endeavor to interest members of the Mecklenburg county club at the institution in compiling the data. Students in the department will do much of the work in research. Several of them will be sent here to go over the field with the purpose of gathering information to be incorporated in the book. Mr. Kuester will visit the university early in the fall to address the county club and describe what he has in mind about the survey.

Copies to Schools

The Chamber of Commerce will have 3,000 copies printed at a cost of about $1,000. The book will go to press about February 1. Copies will be furnished the schools of the county for use in their work. Such a survey of Rockingham county, Virginia, is used as a textbook in the schools of that county, while other surveys are used by club women in their courses of study. It will be a valuable publication, Mr. Kuester points out, saying that he wants it to be the most comprehensive and best of any county survey yet made by the university.

There will be about a dozen chapters in the book, which will be printed on good paper. The first chapter will likely consider the historical background of Mecklenburg county. Its towns will be described and natural resources considered. Industries and opportunities will come in for considerable attention, while facts about the people will be an important portion of the publication. Wealth and taxation, schools, farm conditions and practices, food and feed production, evidences of progress, social and civic organizations, city and county government, churches and schools, markets and problems and their solution will be described with considerable detail.

Agriculture—1925.

Condition of.

Georgia.

Not for Publication But for Comment

The Cotton farmer

Delta Bulletin

Sept 5 1925

Carroll County Miss

The Editor is in receipt of a communication from a member of our race and a member of the Negro race family and a man of much thought. He is interested in our recent [illegible] He writes his communication is not for publication "but for comment—if you like." We would have liked to publish this letter in full but we are now picking out some thoughts in the letter. What we all want is the truth and the real truth, no more and no less. He writes "Esteemed friend of mine, I have read with pleasure your article concerning the visitors from Columbia University. Just one things prompts me to write you: you seem so slow to admit that the Negroes have gone North in great numbers. Columbia University knows they have left the South and they are trying to find out why? The landlords in Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas know they are gone and are importing Mexican labor to pick the cotton. Now, old chum, it does no good to conceal the facts. I fear you missed a golden opportunity to serve the race while talking to these Northern gentlemen. I am sure you judge too much by local conditions. I dare say that "Our Company" has suffered less than most any place in the South and the Negro has less cause to leave from the Scott Syndicate than most any place. If you knew conditions as I do, you would change fronts on that subject. I know some places in the Cotton Belt where 1,888 pounds (EIGHTEEN HUNDRED POUNDS OF SEED COTTON) gives the Negro a bale of cotton weighing FOUR HUNDRED AND FIFTY POUNDS, and at settling time THIRTY more pounds comes off for bagging and ties . . . "OLD CUFF" is growing wiser in some things and will not continue to grow cotton for salt meat and overalls. Eh. I preach to keep the Negro here as ardently as you do, because I don't know any better place for him, but I fear the Cotton planters in Dixie are joined to their unjust ways that they will see them all go rather than change the custom of their fathers. The Negro has many faults and is densely ignorant about many things but the White man is doing more to move him than any "Jaw Sweaters" in Chicago and no labor agent can move a satisfied Negro tenant."

The above is an extract from the communication. Both the Editor and the writer of the communication are sincerely honest in their convictions. The truth is what the Research Department of the Columbia University wants. We have nothing to take back as to the northern exodus. We believe it exaggerated. We believe that the bulk of the migrants were recruits from the Negro nomads who had already left the cotton farms and taken up their abode in the cities in the South and the large towns, and we believe a true census will show it. As to what it takes to make the "satisfied tenant" is a great question. Some folks are not going to be satisfied unless they can get a whole lot for nothing and will get discontented at that and move. The Editor did not miss the opportunity to serve the race and his country while talking with the Columbia University men. The great curse of our race and of the Cotton Belt is "the dense ignorance" the writer speaks of. Bishop Haygood,in his "Brother in Black" well said that the changing of blackboards would not work the problem. In other words, our folks moving from the South to the North would not solve the problem and it won't. Broke landlords and landless scions of the slave white aristocracy must be accounted for in some way. The lack of bank accounts, the lack of homes and the lack of ordinary schooling and dense ignorance of our people must be accounted for. Now let us come and reason together and look facts square in the face. When Liberty Bonds were sold and the tenants were required to take their quota, our people here received in cash that year nearly a half million dollars in actual cash on final settlements for cotton and were delivered something over fifty thousand dollars in Liberty Bonds. The average clearings that year was around $300.00 to the one mule cropper and in addition from a fifty dollar Liberty Bond to several hundred dollars in Liberty bonds? Have they any of the cash now? Have they any of the bonds? Did they put the cash into a farm land home? As to "jaw sweaters" didn't cause many a man to leave his own land, where he had a good house, an orchard, and all together well fixed for making an independent living? There is no Utopia and there are no pockets in shrouds. When we learn to stop blaming the white man for our ills and do what is lawful and right to remedy them we will be a better people. Then when the white man will in business stop classifying all our people in one business class and grant credit to whom credit is due and deny credit to whom credit is not due, there will then be an incentive for our folks to win and deserve the credit we ask. Just so long as the white man encourages the trifling Negroes and discourages the thrifty Negroes the cotton belt will have a mill stone around its neck. Now somebody cultivated the bumper cotton crop that they are bringing in Mexicans to pick. It was evidently Negroes that made the crop. This shows that they have not all gone. Visit a baptizing and it is evident we have plenty of our folks here and of the more substantial class. Now if the corn problem could be solved and we believe it could be by specialized corn farms on a large scale the Delta planter would never be the possessor of distressed cotton. Why all this hurrah about the crop likely to waste and it must all be given to pickers to get it out? This is only September. Every cropper should do his best to get his cotton out and he should, of course, have help if he sees he can not get it out in time to save the staple, but to become stampeded and give it all away to pickers, that of itself is making cotton for the "honor of standing Godfather for a crop."

Agriculture—1925

Condition of.

Texas.

ITTSBURG PA. TIMES
OCTOBER 25, 1925

Decreasing Farms.

A count made by the Census Bureau reveals that the farms of the United States have decreased in number by 75,735 since 1920. No doubt a part of the condition is due to enlargement of acreage under one ownership, but the major portion is chargeable to the abandonment of farms in unprofitable areas. In the latter respect the South appears to suffer most. Georgia outranking all other states in losses. The ravages of the boll weevil and the migration of the Negro farm workers are credited with being responsible for the abandonment of farms in the Southern states. The Northwest, where there had been a succession of dry seasons, also shows heavy decreases. In contrast with a former trend New England shows an increase. Texas makes the greatest gain.

If the decreasing number of farms were indicative of the placing of agriculture on a more stable basis it would not be a condition to be regreted. However, the complete abandonment of farms heretofore tilled offers evidence that much farming heretofore carried on has become so unprofitable that it was regarded as better to quit entirely rather than to rely on the return of more favorable conditions. It is the least desirable farms both in location and productiveness which are abandoned. It is possible that the decrease will inure to the benefit of those who still cling to the soil. Yet, while the decrease is appreciable, it is not great in comparison with those which still remain. Therefore the effect cannot be great. If so many have taken the step of abandoning farms possibly many others are still staying, but almost hopeless.

Agriculture – 1925

General.

Condition of.

THE SOUTHERN FARM AND THE NEGRO

The farm when properly conducted is the most inviting field of labor in America. The South has wonderful advantages in this industry, and has given the country a large proportion of its staple products. In recent years wonderful developments have been made on the southern farms, which have increased the advantages, stimulated an interest in farm work, made production more certain, and less troublesome. The South may not be using to the best advantage its opportunity for great things with its farm lands. The times demand a more thrifty, and economic mode of operation. The landlords may encourage greater production, and a more normal state of affairs, by a degree of fairness to Negro labor that is not now expressed in the remote sections of our farm area.

Birmingham Reporter

The old rule of handling Negro labor is not accepted as the best method. It is true on the farm as it is elsewhere that a more sympathetic and fairer disposition is demanded. The owners of plantations would do well to make personal inspections of their labor with respect to how it is being treated, as well as to how it is being paid, and not leave such an important matter entirely in the hands of the farm boss, and overseer. We must encourage more and better farming. The Negro is truly a practical and endurant farmer. He can stand and do more in this field of service than any other race group. He is not satisfied to carry on now unless protection is guaranteed, and services paid for.

9-12-25

Birmingham, Ala.

Ample schools in these far away sections should be provided for the Negro, as provided for other people. To get the best production on a farm now the laborers must be trained, and there must a degree of interest existing between the toiler, and the owner, if things are to work out well for both.

The Negro farmer, according to the latest reports of the Government department is slow to own land, and take advantage of the many opportunities offered to own his farm, and produce his crop. While there are quite a number of prosperous Negro farmers in every southern state, they are far too few considering the opportunities offered. As a race we need to encourage the owning of more farms, and the settling of our people in the country area where life and happiness is more secure, and production for a livelihood is certain. We have too many people of our group in cities, who lived comfortably and happily on the farm. We do not encourage our people to live in peonage, being subjected to the cruelty of unfair landlords, and other unjust practices as are found in some sections, but we want to emphasize the owning of our farms, and discourage the tenant farming where it can be done otherwise.

The white man, and the Negro of the South, have not, and are not now, using to their best advantage the opportunities offered for a prosperous and happy life on the farm. The whites have left it to the Negro to do the work while they trade with faraway interest for the money. Too many have been idle. The lands are fertile, and the negotiation for capital has been easy. With this secure the whites have went to sleep, and let the Negro do the work. As a general thing the Negro has had but little thought as to his future, knowing that his white friends had easy access to money, he made himself satisfied to rely upon the landlord for whatever meager comforts he required. He had but little vision, only encouraged to work and not own, his ambition was stultified. The times demand a more serious attitude on the part of both. Neither will succeed in the South perpetually and profitably without the other. Each must work in his respective field, but the interest must be all for one and one for all.

We have too much waste land in the South. Our labor is being taken away, because of the friendly attitude expressed by others, and the inducements offered in pay and protection. If our farms are destroyed, or hindered in the South, our other activities must at least slow down, and our foodstuff, and staple produce will become more expensive. Some remedy must be had. A home is comfortable, the inmates are happy as long as the resource is normal, and undisturbed. It is true with a city, a state, and a nation.

Increase pay in the industry, or the mineral field is only an increase over the farm when we can buy meat, flour, meal, sugar, coffee, and other things for the home at a reasonable price. It is, therefore, neccessary that our production on the farm continue normal.

Honorable Henry W. Grady, in an address delivered October 26, 1887, made the following statement:

"When every farmer in the South shall eat bread from his own fields and meat from his own pastures, and, disturbed by no creditor and enslaved by no debt, shall sit among his teeming gardens and orchards and vineyards and dairies and barnyards, pitching his crops in his own wisdom and growing them in independence, making cotton his clean surplus, and selling it in his own time in his chosen market and not at a master's bidding—getting his pay in cash and not in a receipted mortgage that discharges his debt but does not restore his freedom—then shall be breaking the fullness of our day."

This speech of Mr. Grady is thought perched from a lofty heighth. Though many years old it can be used as a good code, and guide for the South. We need to concern ourselves more about the farm and the farmer, and be convinced of the fact that matters not how prosperous we seem to be in other fields of activity there is no perpetual growth, or continuous prosperity in any endeavor with the waning of farm life and farm interest.

SYRACUSE, N. Y. POST STAN

AUG 16 1925

AFTER THE NEGRO GOES.

The boll weevil evidently is more accountable for the exodus of 1,000,000 Negroes from the south than are political discrimination and social disadvantages.

On the cotton map, the latest farm census gives McDuffie county, Ga., the distinction of being the spot hardest hit in all the south, in cotton production and Negro emigration.

Its land and buildings, valued at $4,157,602 January 1, 1920, have dropped to $1,522,400. In land alone, the shrinkage in five years has been from $3,115,597 to $1,087,000. Last year 5,165 bales of cotton were produced; in 1919 there were 12,389. The cotton acreage had fallen from 32,147 to 15,838.

In parallel, the number of Negroes operating farms has decreased forty per cent. On January 1, 1920, it was 1,045; now it is 623, a loss of 422. There are 927 tenant farmers altogether where there were 1,407.

The area chiefly blighted by desertion of the Negro cotton picker, includes Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida and North and South Carolina.

Persistent campaigning beats the boll weevil. In Texas, where the pest made its first ravages, it is being overcome, and production figures are reassuring. But the remedy for loss of the Negro is hard to find.

There are few whites coming in, and counter to expectation 75 per cent of the Negroes who go north, stay there. The south must get them back or it must draw more immigrants. A large proportion of our immigrants came from the land but a small proportion go on the land after leaving Ellis Island.

THE SOUTH NEEDS NO INCREASE IN FOREIGN IMMIGRATION.

THE suggestions that are being made in many quarters toward letting down immigration bars in order to permit the coming of foreigners into the South is unwise in the extreme. It is claimed that the South needs these foreigners for the development of its agricultural lands. It does not need them.

Manufacturers Record

11-12-25

This year's cotton crop is entirely too large for the good of the South, notwithstanding all the claims that have been made during the last few years that the movement of negroes from the South would cut down its cotton production. It has not done so. There is an abundance of farm labor in the South to produce all the cotton that the world needs, and the emigration of a few negroes, few even if measured by several hundred thousand, is in the long run a blessing to the South. We have had entirely too many negroes and the South has been dependent upon them to too great an extent. The presence of the negro has created the impression that a white man cannot raise cotton to advantage, whereas the fact is that the largest increase in cotton production is in the region where negroes are very scarce and where the cotton is raised by white men. The emigration of a few hundred thousand negroes is of trifling importance, compared with the emigration between 1865 and 1900 of 5,000,000 Southern whites.

It is true that there are many lines of diversified farming which could be carried on profitably in the South to a greater extent that at present, but diversified farming will largely depend upon the development of industrial interests to create a market for diversified farm products. There are entirely too many farmers in the South at present in proportion to the home market for the things which they could produce.

Give to Southern farmers a consuming market by the development of a large non-producing population and the Southern farmers can easily be taught to turn to diversified agriculture. The problem facing the South is its very heavy negro population, and the coming into this section of many foreigners from other parts of the United States is already a burden to it in many respects. To suggest that the South co-operate in lowering the bars of immigration, whether the immigrants come from north Europe or from south Europe, would be most unwise.

The individual landowner who wants to see his acres cultivated may in many cases be perfectly willing to see foreigners come in, hoping in that way to advance his individual prosperity; but that is a narrow viewpoint from which to look at the matter. It is not the viewpoint of one who is considering the welfare of the South in the coming years. If we should ever again lower the bars against immigration, we would make a fatal blunder, destructive of all that is best in American life and in American government.

Even the English working people are becoming so tainted with communism and bolshevism that the country from which we once drew the Anglo-Saxon element in our population is no longer a safe region from which to permit heavy immigration. Surely the memory of men must be very short if they are willing to encourage immigration from Germany, for that country has proven that it is not a good breeding ground at present for immigration to America. We do not need and should not have any further immigrants from southern Europe or southeastern Europe. We already have too many coming from that section.

If the effort that is under way to bring about a condition which would increase immigration into the South from Europe were given to the development of the poorer classes of white farmers and tenants now in the South, it would be possible to vastly improve their methods of farming.

One of the most thrilling speeches to which the writer ever listened was made some years ago by Henry Exall, then one of the most farseeing business men of Texas. At that time he was devoting his life entirely to altruistic work and his efforts were concentrated upon a campaign to induce the landowners of Texas to build better homes and give greater opportunities to their tenant farmers. He pictured with tremendous power the inadequate houses in which the tenant farmers had to live and the depressing influence of their homes upon the lives of these tenants. "Moreover," he added, "as landowners are always willing to sell when they secure their price, the tenant farmer never knows one year whether he will live in the same place the following year or not. This creates a shiftlessness in the tenant. He cannot make any effort to improve his surroundings or to enrich the soil or to better the house in which he lives." Mr. Exall made a plea for a complete change on the part of Southern landowners of the conditions in which tenants lived and of giving them an assurance of a long tenure, so that they might feel they had a home and would, therefore, be stimulated to improve the conditions of their home through the betterment of soil and an improvement in the way of gardens and kindred work for the good of the family.

If that address of Exall could ever have been recorded and put into the hands of every landowner in the South and every business man, whether he was a landowner or not, it would have stirred the very soul of this section to a determination that tenant farmers should have better conditions under which to live and have the assurance that they would not be forced to jump from place to place because of the uncertainty as to whether or not the land on which they were living would be sold to somebody else.

Tenant farming in the South has decreased to an alarming extent. Much of the decrease is due to this condition against which Mr Exall was giving the work of the latter years of his life. His address was one to stir the conscience of every landowner who heard it. Surely there are other men in the South who can catch the same vision and help in a campaign to carry foward a work of such vital import to the improvement of Southern men and women on the small tenant farms of this section and give them an aspiration and an inspiration for better living conditions.

Here is a work a thousand times more important than trying to bring foreigners into this country, with all their antagonism to everything for which America should stand. Away, then, with every effort to increase the number of foreigners in the South! Unfortunately, in the Southward movement of population we shall have far more of them coming into this region, those who are now living in the North and West, than is desirable for this section, but we want no increase in foreign immigration either into the South or the North or the West. It will be a generation or more before the foreign stock already here can be assimilated and become Americanized. At present that foreign stock is to a large extent opposed to everything that is best in American life.

That any Southern Governor should advocate increased foreign immigration into the South is, in our opinion, suggestive of the fact that he has not given thoughtful study to the welfare of this section or of the country at large. One of the glories of the South is that its foreign stock is so limited as compared with that of other sections.

DESPITE the exhortations of the leading newspapers of London, the voters of the English capital contributed 88 to the net gain of 135 seats recently made by the Labor party in the election. Can it be that England has adopted the adage, "The only cure for too much democracy is still more democracy," and is ready to go through to the bitter end?

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Georgia.
6

AIDING COLORED FARMERS

A significant gathering was held in Sandersville last week when a number of representative white and colored citizens assembled to outline a farm program for the colored farmers of Washington county. The colored farmers have a demonstration agent of their own and the occasion in question takes on an additional significance when we are told that Friday of this week is the second day of a ham show and school fair, staged by the colored people themselves to encourage the idea of living at home.

What has been done already is brought into impressive relation with what can be accomplished hereafter.

The mere fact that a meeting like that of last week was held is in itself encouraging, but in addition the speakers, who were all men of practical experience, had many words of wisdom to impart.

The chairman of the county commissioners, who is himself a successful farmer, tried to impress upon the colored farmer the importance of thrift. He recited the fact that a negro tenant on his plantation a few years ago made a clear profit of $1,800 in a single year. This sum was paid to the tenant in cash, and the enlightened and sympathetic landlord did what he could to persuade his tenant to put his profits in the bank so as to be prepared for the inevitable rainy day.

But in six months time the tenant had spent every dollar of his profits and was back at the farm looking for his old job.

The case may be in part exceptional, but it shows the real interest that the southern farmer takes in the colored farmers, whether the latter be landlord or tenant, and it shows what can be done by diligence and intelligence.

And it shows the wisdom of "Thrift, thrift, Horatio."

Another speaker made a point which might well cause white and black alike not to overlook the little things. The average farmer, white and black, has a sort of mania for burning off the broom straw every year. Leaving aside all consideration of danger of forest fires, the speaker said that broom straw contained more nitrogen per ton than a ton of stable manure.

And yet hardly one in 10,000 farmers realize it.

All the speakers urged their colored friends to plant a home garden. If they would plant rye patches for their chickens, hogs and cows they would be "practically independent," said one speaker, who gave the further detail that mustard was one of the finest spring tonics known for man and beast.

We have no doubt that the meeting will have far reaching results, and it would be a good idea if other counties in the state should imitate the example of old Washington.

Savannah, Ga. Press
JUL 26 1925

SOUTH GEORGIA NEGRO FARMERS.

One of the most delightful stories from the field is that of a negro couple in Decatur county near Bainbridge—a negro man and his wife who, directly after the War Between the States, began business together farming, as home-and-farm partners, and with some basic principles of life and business which have brought them steady, notable, permanent success. The story runs:

> The success attained in farming by Lewis and Ellen Harp, on their six hundred-acre place, three miles from Bainbridge, shows conclusively what negroes can do with Decatur county soil when diligence, thrift and sticking to the job is carried on throughout the year. According to these two old negroes, who have never had court troubles, never behind with taxes, never a mortgage and who are said to be the best "fixed" negroes in the county, they have only bought "once" and that was when they first began.
>
> They have always raised what could be raised on a farm for family consumption. In their smokehouse hangs fine bacon, enough to "carry" them till more is raised. Hams, sides and shoulders having all been sold to white customers in Bainbridge. Twenty head of cows are milked, the butter is sold in town while the skimmed milk helps to raise pigs and chickens. They realized $1.500 on cotton last year and about $100 on syrup.
>
> Three hundred acres are in cultivation, the other 300 pine forest, is under fence. Four plows and cultivators are used by Lewis and his two sons in making the crops. Help is hired only for picking. They are about sixty-seven years old and have made twenty-five crops where they are now living, their farming experience for themselves beginning after the war. They speak with high respect for their "white folks."
>
> Ellen learned to sew under the "ladies," never "mixed" with her race until sixteen and has ridden on a train once. They both have a native intelligence that keeps them abreast of the times. They have many friends among the white people here and in syrup making time "Uncle" Lewis and "Aunt Ellen Harp's" is the mecca for all the school children in the afternoon and for the society set in the evening.
>
> Old-fashioned chicken suppers along with the sugar boiling prepared and served by these slave-raised negroes is something most sought after with hundreds of people in this section.

Contrast the story with the tales of adventure and hardship and suffering which come from some of the cities to which Southern negroes have migrated—lured by this and that false attraction of visible and intangible inducement. The success of this South Georgia couple has been in two main directions—in material things, in abundance of necessities and not a few of the comforts and luxuries of life, in ownership of a great farm, in cash on hand for every need and some put away for their older age or exigencies that may arise—and in the invisible, but none the less real values they have gathered—the pleasures of living among friends who respect them and appreciate them, in friendly neighborliness with their "white folks," in the enjoyment of a reputation that must, naturally, be gratifying to them.

They have not only made a living on the farm—a far better, surer, safer living than the precarious existence struggled for by thousands of others, but they have made, too, a "life" that ought to be an inspiration. How? By industry, commonsense, adapting themselves to the conditions of the situation in their home county where they are known!

Cordele, Ga. Dispatch
OCT 13 1925

BETTER NEGRO FARMERS

Sylvester Local:

Col. W. J. Crowe believes that the more intelligent the negro farmer is ~~the more intelligent the negro farmer~~ is the more satisfactory service he will give the landlord. Believing this, he subscribed for each of his negro tenants to three of the leading farm papers. He says he can see good results from it already. The negro farmers are reading the papers and are keeping up with the latest things that are calculated to help the farmer. So well satisfied is he in the investment he came to the Local office this week and ordered the county paper mailed to each of his tenants for a year. He says he believes the tenant who reads and keeps posted on things is better than the ignorant one who knows nothing.

Agriculture—1925. I. Alabama.
Condition of.

FINAL DATA GIVEN ON ALABAMA FARMS

Facts on Production Are Compiled For Public by F. W. Gist

AUBURN, ALA., Jan. 31.—Special to The Advertiser.—Final figures from the federal and state crop-reporting service give some additional information concerning farm production in Alabama, which was given out by F. W. Gist, agricultural statistician, today.

The distribution of hay production by counties in 1924 is shown as follows:

	Acres	Yield	Tons
Clover	42,000	0.80	34,000
Timothy and clover	3,000	1.00	3,000
Alfalfa	24,000	1.50	36,000
Annual legumes	470,000	.65	306,000
Grains cut green	103,000	.65	67,000
Other tame	180,000	.80	144,000
Wild	23,000	.80	15,000
Total	843,000	.71	603,000

Other hay is composed chiefly of Johnson grass. The very low yield per acre of hay was due to dry weather, which curtailed the growth of hays and prevented in most instances second cuttings.

The following acreages, production, and values of truck crops grown commercially are given:

Snap beans, hampers—1,060 acres; 52,000 hampers; $109,000.

Cabbage—1,200 acres; 7,800 tons; value, $355,000.

Cucumbers—2,540 acres; 432,000 hampers; value, $[illegible].

Potatoes—[illegible] acres; 1,302,000 bushels; value, $1,549,000.

Strawberries—3,960 acres; 5,544,000 quarts; value, $832,000.

Watermelons—[illegible] acres; 1,998 cars; value, $24[illegible],000.

Total, [illegible],780 acres; value $3,577,000.

Following are the production and value of orchard fruits in the state:

Apples, 1,190,000 bushels; value, $1,785,000.

Grapes, 825 tons; value, $115,500.

Peaches, 1,425,000 bushels; value, $1,667,000.

Pears, 224,000 bushels, value $287,000.

Total value, $3,854,000.

The acreage of fall-sowr oats was estimated to be 124,000, compared with 155,000 sown in the fall of 1923. The condition of fall-sown oats on December 1 last was 63, compared with a condition of 88 the year previous. Dry weather, lasting up to and beyond oats sowing time, cut the acreage and also influenced a low condition of the crop.

THE BLACK BELT OF ALABAMA AND NEW ZEALAND

We are cautioned to watch New Zealand as a competitor of American dairy industries. Although New Zealand is on the other side of the world, it appears that because of superior natural conditions and low shipping rates, it can ship its dairy products into the markets of the world against all other producers; it can pay our tariff and come into the United States to compete with home dairies.

This information is put before us by Mr. H. L. Russell, chairman of the advisory council, agricultural commission, of the American Bankers Association. His article appears in the current issue of the Journal of this association, and it is interesting. All information in this editorial about New Zealand is taken from Mr. Russell's article.

The New Zealand islands have very few natural resources from the point of view of minerals. They have some coal, no iron, no oil, no gold. Neither has the Black Belt any productive minerals under its soil; it may have oil, but none has been found.

New Zealand has, however, a "wonderful climate," with high rainfall, making exceedingly favorable conditions for pasturage. The Black Belt has an admirable climate, and sufficient rainfall, and pasturage conditions are excellent.

New Zealand is a pastoral and agricultural nation. The Black Belt isn't a nation, but it is a pastoral and agricultural country. From the beginning the entire effort of the people of New Zealand has been spent toward the development of agriculture—"first, the sheep industry, and later dairying." The Black Belt first was a cotton country; now it is forced to give more attention to dairying and more recently sheep-growing.

Thirty years ago America supplied Great Britain with the larger part of the cheese which she imported. It was at that time that we developed here in America what was known as "filled cheese." "It ruined out British market," says Mr. Russell. "Canada took it away from us. New Zealand has now wrested from Canada the cheese market, and for the last three or four years has been shipping a larger proportion of cheese to Gerat Britain." At the same time, New Zealand has been developing its butter production. Over 150,000,000 pounds of butter are shipped annually from New Zealand to Great Britain. Denmark heretofore has been the mainstay of Great Britain in butter. Now New Zealand ships 75 per cent as much butter into Britain as Denmark does; ultimately it will ship as much.

There is little to be said in behalf of the Black Belt here. The Black Belt has been doing more dairying in late years than formerly, but it hasn't gone into the European market. It doesn't even supply the home demand for butter; but the Black Belt is invited to observe that the dairying industry of New Zealand now brings it $250,000,000 a year, yet it ships stuff 12,000 miles to England.

New Zealand's dairy products have doubled in the last seven years. We can say something for the Black Belt here. We assume that the Black Belt's dairy products have more than doubled in that time.

The cost of production in New Zealand is "significant." Here is a country that is capable of having its cattle out of doors all the year round. There are no barns. There is no such thing as silage; "there is no necessity of the feeding of concentrates, which we use here (in Wisconsin) in so large measure." New Zealand beats the Black Belt a little here. There isn't a month in the year that cattle cannot graze out of doors in the Black Belt, but they cannot stay out all the time. Frequently in the winter season, the weather is severe on unprotected cattle, and some shiftless people lose cattle because they shut their eyes to the fact that our winters are treacherous from the standpoint of live stock. Moreover, it is but simple truth to say that it is necessary to feed our cattle in barns during the winter to keep them in tip-top, healthy condition. But most of the time cattle can stay out of doors. That is significant. It, together with other factors, make the Black Belt potentially a superior dairying country to Wisconsin, Minnesotta, Michigan and the New England States. Our climate is infinitely better. We can keep productive cows more cheaply, but not so cheaply as the New Zealanders can.

New Zealand has met its labor problem by having the enterprise utilize machinery for milking purposes, "so that a common method of milking and maintaining a herd is by machinery." Under these conditions Mr. Russell states that a man and a boy are capable of handling a farm containing 50 or 60 head of cattle. That is better than we do in the Black Belt, though milking machinery is coming more and more into use. In New Zealand, "it is not necessary for the man to spend time cultivating his fields and harvesting a grain crop to be fed to these cattle during the winter. All he has to do is turn his cattle out to graze, and he milks them by machinery." The Black Belt can approximate, but hardly equal this; the North country in the United States cannot approach it.

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Alabama.

Condition of.

FINAL DATA GIVEN ON ALABAMA FARMS

Facts on Production Are Compiled For Public by F. W. Gist

AUBURN, ALA., Jan. 31.—Special to The Advertiser.—Final figures from the federal and state crop-reporting service give some additional information concerning farm production in Alabama, which was given out by F. W. Gist, agricultural statistician, today.

The distribution of hay production by types in 1924 is shown as follows:

	Acres	Yield	Tons
Clover	42,000	0.80	34,000
Timothy and clover	3,000	1.00	3,000
Alfalfa	23,000	1.50	34,000
Annual legumes	476,000	.65	309,000
Grains cut green	103,000	.65	67,000
Other tame	180,000	.80	144,000
Wild	20,000	.80	15,000
Total	843,000	.71	603,000

Oats for hay is composed chiefly of Johnson grass. The very low yield per acre of hay was due to dry weather, which curtailed the growth of hays and prevented in most instances second cuttings.

The following acreages, production, and values of truck crops grown commercially are given:

Snap beans, hampers—1,060 acres; 52,000 hampers; $109,000.

Cabbage—1,200 acres; 7,800 tons; value, $355,000.

Cucumbers—2,540 acres; 432,000 hampers; value, $4[illegible]

Potatoes—[illegible]20 acres; 1,302,000 bushels; value, $1,549,000.

Strawberries—3,960 acres; 5,544,000 quarts; value, $832,000.

Watermelons—[illegible]500 acres; 1,998 cars; value, $24[illegible],000.

Total, [illegible],780 acres; value $3,577,000.

Following are the production and value of orchard fruits in the state:

Apples, 1,190,000 bushels; value, $1,785,000.

Grapes, 825 tons; value, $115,500.

Peaches, 1,425,000 bushels; value, $1,667,000.

Pears, 224,000 bushels, value $287,000.

Total value, $3,854,000.

The acreage of fall-sown oats was estimated to be 124,000, compared with 155,000 sown in the fall of 1923. The condition of fall-sown oats on December 1 last was 63, compared with a condition of 88 the yeaf previous. Dry weather, lasting up to and beyond oats sowing time, cut the acreage and also influenced a low condition of the crop.

THE BLACK BELT OF ALABAMA AND NEW ZEALAND

We are cautioned to watch New Zealand as a competitor of American dairy industries. Although New Zealand is on the other side of the world, it appears that because of superior natural conditions and low shipping rates, it can ship its dairy products into the markets of the world against all other producers; it can pay our tariff and come into the United States to compete with home dairies.

This information is put before us by Mr. H. L. Russell, chairman of the advisory council, agricultural commission, of the American Bankers Association. His article appears in the current issue of the Journal of this association, and it is interesting. All information in this editorial about New Zealand is taken from Mr. Russell's article.

The New Zealand islands have very few natural resources from the point of view of minerals. They have some coal, no iron, no oil, no gold. Neither has the Black Belt any productive minerals under its soil; it may have oil, but none has been found.

New Zealand has, however, a "wonderful climate," with high rainfall, making exceedingly favorable conditions for pasturage. The Black Belt has an admirable climate, and sufficient rainfall, and pasturage conditions are excellent.

New Zealand is a pastoral and agricultural nation. The Black Belt isn't a nation, but it is a pastoral and agricultural country. From the beginning the entire effort of the people of New Zealand has been spent toward the development of agriculture—"first, the sheep industry, and later dairying." The Black Belt first was a cotton country; now it is forced to give more attention to dairying and more recently sheep-growing.

Thirty years ago America supplied Great Britain with the larger part of the cheese which she imported. It was at that time that we developed here in America what was known as "filled cheese." "It ruined out British market," says Mr. Russell. "Canada took it away from us. New Zealand has now wrested from Canada the cheese market, and for the last three or four years has been shipping a larger proportion of cheese to Gerat Britain." At the same time, New Zealand has been developing its butter production. Over 150,000,000 pounds of butter are shipped annually from New Zealand to Great Britain. Denmark heretofore has been the mainstay of Great Britain in butter. Now New Zealand ships 75 per cent as much butter into Britain as Denmark does; ultimately it will ship as much.

There is little to be said in behalf of the Black Belt here. The Black Belt has been doing more dairying in late years than formerly, but it hasn't gone into the European market. It doesn't even supply the home demand for butter; but the Black Belt is invited to observe that the dairying industry of New Zealand now brings it $250,000,000 a year, yet it ships stuff 12,000 miles to England.

New Zealand's dairy products have doubled in the last seven years. We can say something for the Black Belt here. We assume that the Black Belt's dairy products have more than doubled in that time.

The cost of production in New Zealand is "significant." Here is a country that is capable of having its cattle out of doors all the year round. There are no barns. There is no such thing as silage; "there is no necessity of the feeding of concentrates, which we use here (in Wisconsin) in so large measure." New Zealand beats the Black Belt a little here. There isn't a month in the year that cattle cannot graze out of doors in the Black Belt, but they cannot stay out all the time. Frequently in the winter season, the weather is severe on unprotected cattle, and some shiftless people lose cattle because they shut their eyes to the fact that our winters are treacherous from the standpoint of live stock. Moreover, it is but simple truth to say that it is necessary to feed our cattle in barns during the winter to keep them in tip-top, healthy condition. But most of the time cattle can stay out of doors. That is significant. It, together with other factors, make the Black Belt potentially a superior dairying country to Wisconsin, Minnesotta, Michigan and the New England States. Our climate is infinitely better. We can keep productive cows more cheaply, but not so cheaply as the New Zealanders can.

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COOSA TO FRONT IN WATER SYSTEMS

Thirty-Four Plants Reported Put On Farms This Year

ROCKFORD, ALA., May 16.—Special to The Advertiser.—By installing 34 water systems this year, the farm people of Coosa county are believed to be leading every other county in Alabama in this work. Not only have they installed this number to date but Miss Gladys McCain, home demonstration agent, says that at least 15 others will be installed during the year.

Miss McCain reported also the improvement of 38 kitchens which is a special project in her work, the idea being that farm women spend a big portion of each day in the kitchen and to make it convenient, attractive and comfortable as possible.

Outside of home improvement a county-wide better garden movement is in progress, each of the club members having planted, or will plant, at least one new vegetable and also have a nice fall garden.

The home improvement work in Coosa county is in line with the state-wide better homes movement and the plan being used here was worked out at the State-wide meeting of farm people and extension workers in Auburn the first of January. Improvements are being made for demonstration purposes.

Trends in Negro Farm Life

BY BENJAMIN F. HUBERT
Tuskegee Institute, Ala.

During the past few years my work has taken me into almost every state where Negroes are making headway on the farms. I have seen them at their work prior to our entrance into the Word War, when prices for farm products were high and prosperity abounded on all sides. It has been my privilege to meet them in their homes and in public gatherings during the after-war period of depression, when the ravages of the boll-weevil and the low prices for farm products left poverty and gloom in their wake. Through conference and correspondence with rural workers in the various states, I have been able to confirm the impressions gained through personal contact as to the trends in Negro Farm Life.

Some Present Indications

Friends of the Negro farmer and those who think of the future of the Negro race in America, have been watching closely to see what the trend in ownership of farm lands is among our people.

For years it has been a source of pride to note the growing desire of Negroes to get possession of farm lands. Our friends have pointed to the accumulation of land as an evidence of our ability as a race to hold our own in the face of the most intense competition. We have done well. But what of the future?

Since the Civil War the United States census reports show a healthy increase in acres farmed, and land owned and operated by Negroes. But there is need for careful study of changes now going on. In three typical states, Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi, where Negroes constitute a large percentage of the total number of farmers, there was a total loss in land farmed by Negroes of 1,406,101 acres from 1910 to 1920. There were in these same states 46,458 Negroes who owned farms in 1900; 57,786 in 1910, and 56,423 in 1920. These last figures show a loss of 1,363 farms during the ten year period from 1910 to 1920.

Another barometer that will indicate how the Negro farmer is adjusting himself to the new type of farming, commonly spoken of as diversified farming, may be gained from a comparative study of the total cattle owned by Negroes in these states, as cattle are essential to diversified farming. The census shows that Negroes in the above named states owned 861,463 cattle in 1910 and 797,767 cattle in 1920. Thus we have a loss of 73,695 in the ten year period.

These figures are subject to possible explanation, but the fact remains that they are cause for serious study.

Some Personal Observations

In recent visits to Farmers' Conferences, and to the homes of farmers who own land, in Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi, I have asked these questions: How much land do you own? How many boys have you? Where are your boys now? What will become of this land when you pass on?

Almost without exception we find that the Negro farmers have not left the communities where they own land. They are still holding on with a "bull dog" grip, but their sons and daughters have gone or are making plans to go to the great industrial centers, North and South.

In an Alabama Farmers' Conference held in March of this year, where there were nearly 100 Negro farmers present, about 75 per cent of whom were farm owners, we found hardly a boy beyond the age of sixteen living on the farms.

While visiting a farm community near Georgiana, Alabama, last week, we stopped with a farmer who owns a farm of 125 acres. He had a beautiful home and splendid growing crops. Near him live his brothers, all of whom own their farms. In the same community is the home of his father who has passed on to his reward, leaving his farm still in the possession of his family but lying idle and in a badly run down condition. The farmer pointed with pride to the pictures of all six of his fine boys. But every one of these boys had deserted the farm for city life. He felt sure that they would never return. He wanted to continue living in the country, but felt very discouraged at times, with the children away, and little interest manifested on their part in the farm that would eventually be left to their care.

Several thousand acres of land are owned by Negroes in this community today. Who will own this land twenty years from now? The people who own the land will probably remain and be buried with their fathers. But will any of the children remain to carry on where their fathers and mothers have left off? There are hundreds and thousands of communities like this in all parts of the south.

A Call For Leadership

The American Negro is probably at the most critical point in his history. He is at the place where he must decide whether or not he will continue to balance his racial life by remaining fixed in the soil, or lose his identity with the things real—forget nature and the great outdoors—and become altogether enmeshed in our highly complicated industrial life centered in the big cities.

There is a growing need for big, farsighted men and women who can visualize problems which our complicated, present-day civilization looks to agriculture to solve problems practical, scientific, commercial, sociological—leaders who can direct our people along lines that will build for themselves a civilization not only for a day, but for hundreds and thousands of years to come.

Nearness To The Soil Makes For Racial Strength

Strong people must live close to the soil. Dr. E. C. Branson of North Carolina in his book on "Farm Life Abroad" in speaking of the German people and their love for nature says, "They are not only country dwellers, but forest lovers all. This nearness to the soil, this love of the woods and life in the open, is significant. It has made and kept the Germans physically wholesome, and in the last analysis it is sheer vitality that wins. Rome had more culture than Central Europe in the last days of the Caesars, but Rome went down at last before the virility and vitality of the uncouth hordes that swarmed out of the Teuton forests. The cities may fester and rot in every land under the conditions of modern life, but a nation is safe if only its country regions be sound—that is to say, if there be any country civilization left.

Henry Wallace, the father of our late Secretary of Agriculture, a member of the American Country Life Commission, and a close student of world problems, in traveling through the Connecticut Valley of New England, seeing the Yankees of New England leaving the farms for the towns and cities, and the land being settled by Poles, Italians, and other European nationalities, stated, that in fifty years it will be as difficult to find a Yankee as it is to find the proverbial hen's teeth. History teaches that the man who tills the soil will eventually own it.

The Job Of The Teacher

Negro teachers in all walks of life should encourage boys and girls, "who have a taste of sweet-gum buds or sage brust in their souls," to prepare themselves and look forward to the fruition of their ideals and to the realization of their visions out in the wide open country. Children should be made to feel that the calling of a farmer is just as sacred, and just as noble, as the calling to any other profession in life, and that this vocation is fundamental to all others.

We read recently of the 300 college graduates from Howard University and of graduates from Fisk, Atlanta, Morehouse, Talladega, and other colleges throughout the land. We would not have this otherwise. There are

ONLY 49 FARMS ARE LOST IN CHILTON DURING CENSUS PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS

Government Figures Show Negroes Leaving Plantations Faster Than Whites

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 1.—Results of the 1925 farm census for Chilton county, Alabama, show that a loss of only 49 farms has been sustained during the five years since the last census in 1920. At the first of this year, Chilton county had 3,394 farms under cultivation, while on January first of 1920, there were 3,020 under cultivation.

While farmers operated 2,884 of the total number of farms, while negroes operated 423, when the figures were compiled. This shows that negroes are giving up their farms or are losing them in a greater percentage than are the white farmers. The approximate negro managership loss is 20 per cent while the white managership shrinkage is about 5 per cent.

There are 182 farm owners less in this county at the present time than there was in 1920, if the figures for the first part of this year still hold good. At the time of the 1920 census, there were 1,940 farm owners in the county, while at the time of the 1925 compiling, there were only 1,758 recorded. Tenant farmers showed an increase of 139 in the five years, indicating that some of the men who owned farms in 1920 may have sold out and are now operating the land they formerly owned for some one else. The new tenant farmer total is 1,633.

There are now 216,717 acres of land under cultivation in Chilton county, the 1925 census figures show. This is compared with a total acreage of 236,654 acres that was found to be under cultivation in 1925. The loss in acreage is set at 19,937 acres. These figures include both pasture lands and crop lands, as 51,603 acres is classed as pasturage, 90,625 as crop land and 74,489 acres as woodland or ground lying idle.

The comparison of figures showing the value of farm lands and buildings in 1925 and 1920 show a loss in valuation of $559,914. In 1920 farm lands and the buildings thereon were worth $5,213,863, the census shows, and in 1925 they had dropped in value to about $4,653,949. Land alone was valued at $3,545,421 in 1920 and $3,056,073 in 1925. Buildings dropped in value from $1,668,442 to $1,597,876.

The number of horses in use in Chilton county dropped from 1,586 to 930—656 less than the 1920 census reported. This drop is nearly a half of the total number of horses of the county in 1920. Mules showed an increase in numbers, the number going up from 3,255 as reported five years ago to 3,515 as shown in the last census. These figures indicate that 260 more mules are in use at the present time than there were at the other end of the five year span.

The number of cattle owned by citizens of the county was reduced materially. In 1920 there were 11,974 cattle reported to the census taker, while at the first part of this year, there were only 9,010 such animals reported. The total number of swine was more than halved, 15,332 being the figures shown in 1920 and 6,691 in January of this year. The drop swept away 8,641 swine, more than are owned in the county at the present time.

Crops suffered in the five years between the two census takings. Corn was raised in lesser quantities, 567,607 bushels being reported in 1920 as compared with 413,215 bushels in 1924, 154,392 bushels, being the difference. There were 76,583 bushels less of sweet potatoes raised and 1,833 bushels less of peaches. Cotton showed a gain of 6,163 bales, a gain of nearly as much as was reported for 1919. In 1919, 7,906 bales were ginned as compared with 14,069 in 1925.

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thousands of students who have graduated and are prepared to carry on in the liberal arts, medicine, law, theology, and business. Should there not be a considerable group of students completing courses that will fit them for leadership in the various lines of our agricultural industry—leaders in production, leaders in investigation, leaders in marketing, leaders in agricultural business, and in social organization?

Montgomery Advertiser 7-26-25

The Jews have recognized that certain fundamental racial strength comes from the possession and ownership of farm lands. In the last few years they have built up farm and country life organizations with the sole purpose of settling large numbers of their people on the farms. This movement has been so successful that farm ownership among Jews in America has doubled and trebled in the last 20 years. What is good for the Jew is good for us. We would not have all of our people remain in the country. We want a well rounded racial and national life. This means that the work of our urban centers must go on, but the country should not be drained of all of its most energetic and virile young men and women, and leave only the weak and inefficient to form the basis for our continued supply for the industrial and professional life of our cities—not only the raw food products so necessary for physical and mental growth, but red blooded young men and women who must take the places of those who soon go down under the strain of modern city life.

THE WESTERN FARMER AND THE BLACK BELT

Editor The Advertiser:

Recent editorials and articles in your paper about Black Belt problems show that people are beginning to think straight about the burden of idle and abandoned prairie lands. As a "newcomer" into this section, possibly I can contribute a thought or two that may fit into the situation.

The Montgomery Advertiser 7-10-25

I started a farm in Illinois before coming to Alabama. By hard work and saving I accumulated enough money to make a payment on my 242 acres of Black land seven miles from Montgomery. Eight years of continuous, steadily hard work and saving here, I have managed to make a living for my family, to clean up one of your abandoned farms and make it a decent place for a white man to live, to build a residence, two barns, to fence the farm and to meet interest on deferred payments on due date. My place is being gradually and slowly improved. I figure it will be ten years yet before I make a farm on a real paying basis

The Montgomery Ala.

There are a great many hard working thrifty young men on farms in the north who are renters or who work land on a share basis or who are associated in some way on farms that they do not own themselves—in many instances on their fathers' farms. Many of these fellows have saved some money. Most all of them are born farmers and expect to continue to farm. Their ambition is to become farm owners—to have their own farm homes somewhere.

There is need for this class of young farmers here in the Black Belt, but as has been said recently in your columns, there is no effort being made to get these working farmers with their own capital, who will develop small farms, into this section. From my knowledge of the north, and conditions both there and here, I will say that I believe the Black Belt can get numbers of this class of farmers, if they go after them. They are at least available. They are not coming to the Black Belt unless the Black Belt goes out to get them and on terms that they can afford to come here on. There are other undeveloped sections getting this class of settlers. It seems that this section should be able to do so.

The Black Belt as a whole is a pitiful spectacle as it stands today. My immediate community will illustrate. Near my little farm there are three plantations—one of 900 aces, bringing the owner a gross income of about $900 a year in rents; one of over 700 acres, bringing a gross rental of $900 per year, and a third one of over 1,000 acres that made eighty tons of Johnson grass hay last year, which possibly may have netted the owner $400 over the actual labor expense of making the hay. This figures a gross income of $2,000 from twenty-six hundred acres of land. Taxes at thirty cents per acre figure $780 which gives a net income of $1,220 from twenty-six hundred acres. It figures about four per cent on a valuation of ten dollars per acre. So much for typical unimproved poorly managed big tracts of prairie land, under present conditions.

There are no speculators coming to the Black Belt these days to buy one thousand and two thousand acre plantations. An analysis of the general agricultural situation and farm land values throughout the whole United States indicates that there is not the remotest chance for a return to the clamor for farm lands for speculative purposes for years to come. Only once in the history of our country has there ever been a sufficient demand for farm lands to make the Black Belt noticeable to land speculators and that was during the World War. Even then such a small percentage of the land here changed hands that it was negligible. This period established war time and temporary values in the minds of men and not in reality. Clinging to these imaginary values is the heighth of fooling one's self and I think it is one of the chief factors in holding back development in the Black Belt.

It seems that the question resolves itself into whether to hold big acreages for several decades awaiting and hoping for another speculative period and get little or no interest from the investment in the meantime (but pay the taxes) or to offer these big plantations in 160 acre tracts at a price and on terms that will bring in industrious farmers who will work on their individual small farms and pay interest on these lands at a fair and honest valuation.

The latter method is in vogue and successful in some undeveloped sections. For instance the Clover Belt of Wisconsin, a virgin and undeveloped territory has a plan of advertising its lands extensively and following it up with men in the field, that is getting that section a good class of working farmers. The following is a copy of their "Settlers Purchase Plan for Farm Lands," that they are now sending out as part of their advertising campaign:

At the end of the following years after settlement you make the following payments on each $1,000 of your purchase:

First	year	None
Second	"	None
Third	"	Accrued Interest
Fourth	"	Accrued Interest
Fifth	"	Accrued Interest
Sixth	"	40.00 & Interest
Seventh	"	50.00 & Interest
Eighth	"	60.00 & Interest
Ninth	"	70.00 & Interest
Tenth	"	80.00 & Interest
Eleventh	"	90.00 & Interest
Twelfth	"	100.00 & Interest
Thirteenth	"	100.00 & Interest
Fourteenth	"	100.00 & Interest
Fifteenth	"	110.00 & Interest

A colony of fifteen families, each having $5,000.00 to spend for building material, farm implements, fencing and other improvements could be placed to advantage for the present owners of the 2,600 acres referred to above, and to the advantage of the city of Montgomery. Their initial expenditures would amount to $75,000.00 to get the land in shape to start living on. Terms as those outlined above and a fair honest price to them for the land, would assure them of success. Their success would mean much to the city of Montgomery in years to come.

The question occurs—as suggested in one of your recent articles on this subject—"Where is the leadership" to start such a plan and to see that it is worked out for all of the Black Belt?

R. F. D. No. 1 — E. L. MARXER

Dallas County Sets A Fast Pace In Real Development Of Its Agricultural Resources

The chamber of commerce of Selma has put to shame almost every other oragnization of the sort in the state of Alabama. The Selma organization has come to the true and enlightened conception of its function: that a chamber of commerce should be an affirmative factor pioneering and developing the resources of town and country, and something more than merely an organization for mutual felicitations and handshaking, as all too many of them are, with an abundance of calorified atmosphere always on tap.

Those Selma business men have gone at the proposition in a business way. They realize that the business interests of Selma are bound up in the prosperity of Dallas county. They vision the city much as a tree, with its roots extending far beyond the shadow of the tree, drawing sustenance and strength from a wide area. As that area is rich or poor, so grows the tree.

The Selma chamber of commerce has raised $15,000 for activities in 1925, and is employing two first-class men, and spending about $8,000 on the two, to aid and supplement the development work of the county demonstration agent. These men will stay on the farms going into all sections of the county, giving assistance and advice; helping the farmers to plan their crops and rotations, working to increase yields and to inculcate more intelligent and modern methods. Instead of having one county agent, overcropped with work, Dallas county has three.

In 1924 Dallas had 124 000 acres in cotton and produced 24,000 bales—less than one bale to five acres. This year the attempt is to augment the production, but the fight is to hold the acreage down or reduce it. More bales on fewer acres, will be the aim. And foremost in the program is an intensive drive for more grain and grain crops. Thirteen bushels of corn to the acre in 1924 will be raised to 20 bushels to the acre in 1925. Some of the Dallas farmers last year by planting vetch and turning it under gathered 50 and 60 bushels of corn to the acre This illustrates the possibilities of scientific farming.

Another point in the program is that a strong effort will be made to grow plenty of velvet beans, soy beans, cowpeas and such leguminous crops as will enrich the soil, as does vetch, while at the same time yielding a good return. Emphasis will be stressed on the importance of building up the dairying industry.

Nor are the negro farmers being neglected. The chamber of commerce is going after the negro farmer with all the strength it can muster to shake him also out of sloth and indigence. An intelligent negro farm supervisor with initiative and energy will be employed who knows the negro's problems and can give his race sympathetic understanding. He will travel all over the county carrying "first aid" to those who need it most. There will also be a movable school sent to Dallas under the auspices of the farm extension bureau at Auburn and Tuskegee to work among the negro farmers, demonstrating proper use of fertilizer and more effective cultural methods and the upkeep and care of their homes.

The chamber of commerce will also give nine prizes of $100 each to the negro farmers who show notable achievement on the farm. These prizes will be for the best production of corn per acre, best all around farm, best milk production and other accomplishments in diversified farming.

The chamber of commerce of Selma feels and understands that the time has come to show an interest in the negro farmer, help him, and stimulate his interest and urge him to improvement. It will help his morale immeasurably, and show him that he is considered an asset instead of a liability to be bewailed as an incubus. A trifling, unproductive farmer is an incubus whether he is white, black or yellow.

Selma has set a tremendous pace. It is the first instance in the South where the business men of a city have pooled their resources to go out and help the negro to become more self-sustaining and a more valuable unit in the economic situation. It is expected to devote half the effort, money and work to the improvement of the negro agriculturists, and already there is a noticeable response and better feeling on the part of the Dallas negro farmers.

The business men of Selma have realized that 85 per cent of all wealth comes from the soil; and the agricultural resources of a territory cannot be ignored by a town, if the town is to prosper. It is an enlightened self-interest bound to produce fine results in every phase of it. Nor is this a mere flash in the pan. It is going to be continued next year, and the next, until Dallas is one of the most progressive and richest and most well-rounded counties in its development to be found in the entire South.

Other towns and cities of Alabama would do well to sit up and take notice of what Selma is doing. It is the only way. It is the way that spells a prosperity that will be solid as the Rock of Gibraltar, and in which everyone will participate.

ELECTRICITY FOR ALABAMA FARMS INCREASING

Mr. E. C. Easter, agricultural engineer on the staff of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute at Auburn, made a significant statement in his recent address before the Exchange club of Montgomery. He commented upon the growing popularity of electricity on the farms of Alabama, stating that today 31 rural power lines are supplying electric power for Alabama farm homes. He said that 1,473 farms are now being served by these power lines. There are approximately 260,000 farmers in Alabama, and Mr. Easter predicted that within a comparatively short time the homes of 100,000 will be placed within easy reach of electric current. Too few of the farmers, he added, realized the importance of electricity in their work.

Commenting upon Mr. Easter's address the Anniston Star says:

> Extending of electric service into the rural districts should prove a blessing to Alabama farm life. When the farm home can be lighted by electricity and the farm wife can have the conveniences and labor-saving appliances that electricity supplies, her work will be greatly reduced and life on the farm will be made much more pleasant. Under the old plan the drudgery of home life takes much of the joy out of living in the country. In time the farm home will have not only electric lights, but electricity for cooking and washing, ironing and sweeping may all be available at moderate cost and then the farmer's wife will be enjoying the privileges and conveniences that her city sister has had for some years.
>
> Electric power on the farm is a present and a growing need. It would greatly reduce the labor on the farm, cut farming expenses and save the time of the farmer and his hands. When farms are electrically equipped, one of the chief reasons for the movement from the farms to the towns will have been removed.

Alabama farms will be the first of Southern farms to receive these modern benefits in large measure. Life is going to be made pleasanter and labor more profitable in Alabama. Who does not see that lacks the power of perception.

Letters to Editor

THE BLACK BELT PROBLEM

Mr. Hearin Opposes Suggestion of Tax Exemption for Dairymen

Editor The Advertiser:

In this morning's paper I find a very interesting letter from a correspondent who signs himself "An Alabamian First." He writes well and thoroughly and plainly shows he has first hand information. Your editorial of the same issue also argues well for improvement of the Black Belt and you wisely point out the fact that this should be a great dairy section.

What you say about our people organizing to invest their money in other sections rather than make safe investments here at home should be pondered by no few of our people who have accumulated their wealth here at home.

I agree with you and your correspondent as to the absolute need for improvement in the Black Belt, the necessity to produce more dairy products and the fact that "our" own people do not like to milk. But I do not think tax exemption is the panacea that will cure all ills, and therefore, do not agree with you as to the remedy to correct the troubles of the Black Belt.

Tax exemptions are fundamentally unsound. Exemptions amount to little more than unfair "bait" to attract the thoughtless when applied to the farmer who will occupy a small farm. Besides, the offer of exemptions makes the stranger think something is fundamentally wrong.

Without raising a question that would have to finally be settled by our courts, it seems more than probable that a law exempting "dairy" farmers from taxation would be unconstitutional. It would certainly be class legislation and it would surely be rank, unfair and unwise discrimination.

There are some who honestly struggle to produce cotton, some prefer corn, others prefer to raise hay and still others make a choice of other crops. Why exempt the "dairy" farmer and leave the burden of taxation to be borne by others? Why not exempt the "corn" farmer and encourage our state to produce more than ten bushels of corn to the acre? Or this might be applied to increase the production of legumes, that our soils might be enriched, or exemptions might be offered to those who would have their barn yard manure and thus add value to their depleted lands. Corn and clovers would make this a great livestock country, but corn (in the crib) enjoys no exemptions.

How would our tax officials determine who are "dairy" farmers? A good farmer never puts all of his eggs in one basket and the man who has nothing on his farm but dairy cows is as much a one crop farmer as the one who raises nothing but cotton. The prosperous dairy farmer is usually the farmer who has a reasonably small (or large) herd of dairy cattle that, with beef cattle, hogs, sheep, and poultry, go to make a well balanced farm. He raises hay, corn, clovers, soy beans corn or whatever feed crop is best adapted to his section. Two of the largest creamery companies in the United States state that 75 per cent of all cream comes from farmers with less than eight cows. If this be true, who is to determine whether such a farmer is a "hay" farmer, a "corn" farmer, a "chicken" farmer or a "dairy" farmer?

Personally, I have thought for years that the salvation of the Black Belt depended very largely upon the dairy cow, but I do not believe the dairy cow is yet important enough to justify us in class legislation, or unfair laws that discriminate and laws that will not stand the test of the courts.

There is no doubt that we need more dairy cows in the Black Belt, and we need more dairies, but above all we need more dairymen. Your correspondent says our own people do not want to be dairymen. If this be true, we must get dairymen elsewhere. The matter naturally resolves itself into one question, How are we to get more dairymen to come to this section.

It may help us to throw off all but the plain truth and face facts. Our farm population is decreasing. This is true of the north, east, south and west, and particularly true of the Black Belt, where the boll weevil and the negro have moved about so rapidly as to materially affect land values and production. There is not space enough to argue the causes of the decay of the Black Belt but it takes little space to suggest a remedy. The remedy is to induce a large number of industrious farmers who are accustomed to work to settle our idle lands. There are more than five million acres in the Alabama Black Belt. Much of this is idle. More than half of the area is idle and the idle acreage is growing each year, and land values decline as acres become idle.

Much of this land is not paying over twenty cents per acre tax. Exemption from taxation would only mean a saving of twenty dollars on a hundred acre farm. Does any one seriously think this would move a man from Michigan to Alabama?

With actual records in my possession, I have taken the trouble to tabulate twenty Montgomery and Lowndes county farms and apply the rule of common sense and honesty to certain conditions.

These twenty farms are assessed at approximately $17.00 per acre on a tax paying basis. There are mortgages on 19 of the 20 farms and there are second mortgages, of record, on nine of the twenty farms. These are not among the poorest of our farms by any means. They are among our rather good farm sections.

The owners of these lands have sworn to their state and county that these lands are worth $11.00 per acre. These same owners have thought these lands to be worth three times this valuation when making applications for farm loans. In trying to ascertain a value for prospective "dairymen" who desired to know positively and definitely what land they can buy, at what price and where located, and if this land can be legally optioned until they can look over our country and make arrangements to move, I find that the twenty land owners imagine their lands were worth just four times as much as they told the tax assessor he should put them in for the support of the schools and roads and government generally.

The point is plain, simple and clear. If the land owner will split the difference between his assessed valuation and his borrowing valuation and give the "dairyman" the benefit of this split, it will beat exemptions a dozen ways and will so much more easily be understood by a stranger.

If we hope to attract the people to this section who will make this the "Milk Bowl" of the nation, we must offer them our lands at reasonable prices and on attractive terms. They are much more interested in buying at low values than in escaping taxation. They have heard that our southern lands are cheap, but they are not prepared to come here and find "farms" without fences, homes, barns, wells or crops. If our country becomes a great dairy section—and this it should be—it must be sold to men who have capital to invest, patience to build up our soils, plant crops, erect homes, barns and do the many other things that are necessary to make a farm out of a hundred acres of land. When they have built their homes, built up their soils and milked their cows, they will be interested in paying their share of taxes just as they will be interested in sending their children to their schools and just as they will enjoy riding over their roads, for if they be intelligent enough to build soil and produce crops, they will realize that they must do their part to support the government that protects them.

Large tracts of land, legally optioned at fair prices, and held so it can be sold to people who may come in groups, will find purchasers if properly handled, but men are not going to struggle in one at the time, in a haphazard way, and live apart from friends and acquaintances. They have got to have opportunity to see our country first, then know that they can have a reasonable time to prepare for that moving day that will bring them to a new country with new problems. They must know definitely what lands they can buy and at what prices and on what terms and they must not feel that a delayed train would break up an agreement of purchase.

Good "dairymen" will not object to paying taxes, but they do object to isolation, loneliness; uncertainty and being hurried in their selection of a new home.

It is not the Legislature of Alabama, nor is it the tax official who will solve the problems of the Black Belt. It is the land owner.

JESSE B. HEARIN.

July 27.

General.

Agriculture — 1925. I
Conditions of.

NEGRO STANDARDS FAR UNDER WHITES

STUDY BY GOVERNMENT REVEALS.

Survey in Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas Supplies Interesting Data for Expert Study.

Washington, June 19.—Living expenditures among negro farm families in selected localities of Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas appear to be less than half those of white farm families in the same districts. This is indicated by a study just completed by the Department of Agriculture, in which the living costs of 154 negro farm families and 861 white farm families in these three states were compared. The data obtained were for the year 1920 and are therefore not an index of present living costs, but they are valuable nevertheless as indicating the standards of living of these farm families. The average total expenditure of the colored families for the year was only $611 compared with a similar average of $1,436 for the white families.

Farm owners devoted a larger portion of their total expenditures than tenants to what the investigators called "advancement." This term is used to cover formal education, recreation, church support, and charity. Expenditures for these purposes generally increased proportionately faster than the expenditure for food, clothing, shelter and other material goods. In this respect the study confirmed a general rule that has been revealed in other similar cost-of-living studies, namely, that as the family income and expenditures increase, a smaller proportion of the total expenditure goes for material needs and a larger proportion for what may be termed cultured values. Expenditures of the negro families for "advancement" averaged $28.30, or 4.6 per cent of their total outlay. This compares with an expenditure of $84.03 for advancement by the white families.

For food, the cost, among the negro families, was $226.70 compared with $631.80 for the white families. The negro families got along with an expenditure of $107.10 for clothing against an expenditure for the same purpose by the white families of $254.70. Rent expense was figured at 10 per cent of the estimated value of the farm house. This per centage in the case of the negro families amounted to $41 for the year, while the corresponding figures for the white families was $139.90. Annual outlay of the negro family for house furnishings was only $4.05 compared with a similar outlay of $28.50 by the white family. For health purposes the negro families spent an average of $24.80 while the white families spent for this purpose an average of $67.00.

Among the negro families almost 55 per cent or $178.60 worth of the total amount of food products consumed were furnished by the farm. As their total expenditures were smaller, the negro families found it necessary to spend a larger proportion of their income for food than the white families. About the same proportion of their expenditure, however, went for clothing. Most of the negro families used from $300 to $899 worth of goods a year. Many famlies used less than $300 worth. A few used $1,200 worth or more. But there were twice as many families below the $300 mark as there were families above the $1,200 mark. Families whose average total expenditure ranged from $261 to $2,185 spent about the same proportion of their total outlay for food. But the amount spent for clothing increased regularly with the increase of total expenditure per family. In the same way advancement rose with the rise in total expenditures.

Tenants were found to fare almost as well as owner farmers from the standpoint of their total expenditure for all purposes. However, while expenditures for tenant farmers were almost as high as those for owner families, the tenant families were 6 per cent larger in size.

Cropper families were found to be living on approximately one-fifth less than owner or tenant families. Owners and tenants spent about the same for clothing, while the cropper families got along with much less for this purpose. Owners lived in better houses than tenants or croppers, although the houses occupied by tenants were slightly larger than those occupied by owners and considerably larger than those occupied by croppers.

Cost of Living of Colored Farm Families

WASHINGTON, D. C.—According to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, it is a far more expensive proposition to keep the wolf away from the door of a white farmer than it is for a colored farmer to keep him safely at bay. In other words, the Bureau asserts, and backs it up with figures, that a white farm family with an average number of persons per family of 4.6 can live comfortably for one year upon the tidy sum of $1,436 while a colored farm family of 4.8 persons spends only $611 for the same period. Such prime necessities as food, clothing, rent, furnishings, operation, health, advancement, insurance and personal needs were figured in the farm budget, and owner families, tenant families, and cropper families were included in the families observed by the Bureau experts, who said in their report: "It will be noticed that not only are the expenditures of the colored families much smaller than those of the whites, but that there is also a smaller variation in the amounts spent by the different classes of families. No details are given to show how far the 861 white and 154 colored families under consideration were adequately fed and clothed, but the contrast between the expenditures of white and colored for the items named seems to indicate that the condition of the latter leaves something to be desired. In such matters as health, advancement, personal expenses and insurance, there is less difference in the percentage distribution of the expenditures of the two racial groups than in the larger items."

SOUTHERN LAND-OWNING.

The Struggle of Small Farmers, White and Black, to Meet Changing Conditions.

By FRANK BOHN.

When the average Northerner thinks about the South the stage of his mind is usually set with very old furniture. The scene is still cast in terms of the old-fashioned Southern plantation. The planter with his great house, the old-fashioned Southern family in the midst of its servants—all this lends itself so easily to pleasing romance. In reality this older life long since passed away.

The writer recently visited one of these old-time plantation mansions in South Carolina. As built in 1848, it was a grand house. Today it is occupied by a white tenant farmer. The original plantation included 800 acres. The present farm has been cut down to a plot of 172 acres. Of that area this tenant farmer cultivates only twenty-five acres. On the remainder he pastures a cow and picks blackberries. Ceilings have been pulled down for kindling wood. The farmer's family lives in the kitchen and a couple of small bedrooms. The great hall, drawing room and library, in which the neighboring gentry of ante-bellum time were entertained, are now surrendered to the rats and birds. Rain drives in at the windows. We do not mean to imply that this picture represents the whole South. That would be a very mistaken notion. What it does represent is the general drift of Southern plantation agriculture. During sixty years this older agriculture has steadily failed to adapt itself to the new conditions.

Meanwhile several new social groups have been emerging. The type now best known in New York is the successful Southern business man. The banker is naturally 'the connecting link between Southern business and the North. Southern manufacturers, especially cotton manufacturers, have taken a large place in the nation's industrial life. Much excellent water power and hydroelectricity have been developed. These industries have drawn much Northern capital. In general Southern railroads are efficiently operated and managed. Much progress has been made in this last field during the past fifteen years. But Southern business is built upon a shifting and unprofitable agriculture.

The second most important type which has been emerging since the Civil War is the home-owning, small white farmer. For a full generation this man made slow but steady progress. He developed a considerable degree of political power. His political representatives have sometimes become Governors and members of Congress. Yet at his strongest position, in 1919, he numbered less than one-half of the Southern white farm population. Today he is sinking down into tenancy, staggering under a heavy mortgage, or deserting the soil altogether.

It would seem logical that the period of the recent war and the peace, the five years from 1915 to 1920, should have placed the Southern small farmer at least temporarily upon the way to success. Prices were universally high. The boll weevil had not yet invaded the territory east of the Alleghanies. But what are the facts? The census of 1920 shows that the number of independent white farmers in South Carolina (and this is approximately true of all the older South) increased but 2 per cent. during the ten years from 1910 to 1920. Meanwhile, the number of negro farm owners in South Carolina increased 11 per cent. during those ten years.

As to the condition of the negro farm owner there appears, superficially, to be scope for the optimist. Starting with nothing sixty years ago, he seems to have made large gains in holdings of farm property. But naked statistics are apt to be extremely illusory. There are exceptions, but in general the negro farm owner has won his property by adopting a low standard of living. He buys his acres by going without coat and shoes, without sugar and salt. In this process the small white farmer cannot compete with him. That is why, during twenty-five years past, the number of negro owners in some States shows an increase, while the number of white farm owners has remained practically stationary or actually declined.

The negro farm owners in the South have been urged on and helped by a variety of forces. They owe much to Hampton, Tuskegee and similar institutions. The negro has been the object, throughout the South, of a strenuous farm-owning propaganda. Yet the progress could not have been made were it not for the kindly and constant help of their more affluent white neighbors. Again and again have individual negro farm owners, in their homes, told the writer about this feature in connection with their success. No other such emancipated people has ever been so generously treated. While much has been done for the negro he has also done much for himself. The history of the world furnishes few parallels to the growth of this people in development of mind and moral responsibility.

Yet it is only the small minority of the negroes who can rise to farm ownership. This minority combines excep-

tional inteHigence and a measure of education with infinite patience, industry and a low standard of living. Among a hundred negroes a few succeed. South Carolina had, in 1920, a negro rural population of 748,230 and 22,759 negro farm owners. In North Carolina the negro farm owners number 22,277 out of a total rural negro population of 608,242. In Georgia the figures are 16,042 and 933,329. So at the height of agricultural prosperity in 1920 less than one-seventh of the rural negro families in those three States were listed as owning the land they worked—and many of these farms, being under mortgage, are only theoretically owned by their occupants.

Southern soil is sure to be cultivated in ever-increasing areas. This crowding world needs those fertile acres too much to leave them long untilled. But we cannot be at all certain of the future character of Southern society. As one motors along the country roads and through wide forest lands the questions constantly suggest themselves: What will tomorrow bring forth? Whose hand will till these half million square miles?

The Southern lands will be cultivated either as independent small farms or as large plantations worked by negro wage-earners. We have a clear indication of this latter process on the sea islands of the South Carolina coast. The boll weevil having totally destroyed the sea island cotton, those lands are being turned into truck farms. These truck gardens, both from the process of tillage required and the conditions of the market, are not profitably worked by tenants. The result is that there are islands where the negro wage-workers outnumber the white owners and managers ten or twenty to one. If this system thrives generally, if the small farmer is driven out, then the future of the agricultural South can be easily foreseen.

The last thing the writer intends to imply or suggest is the least unkindly or ungenerous thought regarding the future of the negro in the South. But the new leadership in the South and its responsible citizenship, and the nation as a whole, must look at the facts with open eyes and open minds. Thought upon this matter is clarifying among the leaders of both races. They are coming to see that the negroes had far better be distributed throughout the country. In that case their numbers will cease to set the standards of labor and life among the white workers of the South.

FARM POPULATION SHOWS DECREASE

Federal Survey Indicates That 182,000 Less Live in Rural Sections of Country

WASHINGTON, July 10.—The department of agriculture estimated today that the farm population of the United States decreased last year approximately 182,000. The rural population was placed at 31,934,000 January 1, compared with 31,370,000 a year earlier.

The statistics showed varied movements. New England and the South Atlantic states reported net increases of farm population, while the other divisions show losses, with the mountain states leading in the decline.

Thus, while 3,075,000 persons left the farms last year, 1,396,000 returned to them and these, with the natural increase of births over deaths of 495,000, reduced the loss in farm population to 182,000.

Although the bureau is still in favor of city-ward migration, the figures were held to show a back-to-the-farm movement. In 1922 the movement from city to farm was 880,000, which was 516,000 fewer than in 1924, while the movement away from the farm was 2,000,000, only 75,000 fewer than last year.

THE PROBLEMS OF THE BLACK BELT

Mr. R. E. Lambert, the acknowledged authority on the grasses and legumes of the Black Belt, writes to endorse the suggestion for Alabama to exempt dairy farms from taxation for a term of ten years and in presenting his views, he discusses the specialty which has engaged so much of his time and effort in recent years—the building up of lime lands through the growing of legumes.

Any letter dealing with proposed methods of restoring the fertility and the productivity of he Black Belt is of special interest to all the people of South Alabama who have witnessed the decline of the Black Belt's supremacy in agriculture with concern and trepidation. As Mr. Lambert's letter suggests, an exemption from taxation for lands used in dairying will not be as effecting in reducing the revenue of the State as for the lands progressively to get less productive and to continue to lose their taxable value. But farming in the Black Belt should be built up as a whole; it should be made generally productive. Dairying may possibly be the best individual type of farming of the future, but there is no prospect that it will ever have the monopoly of cotton, or that it will ever equal in importance the growing of cotton.

If general farming in the Black Belt ever becomes as prosperous as it should, its regeneration must be preceded by soil building. In his letter, Mr. Lambert says:

"What we need in the Black Belt of Alabama is an ocular demonstration of what can be done with our lime lands. It is practically agreed by all that these lands need their fertility restored by humus and they also need drainage. Restoring the soil and the humus necesasrily helps the drainage and makes it more pliable and more tillable. It is the consensus of opinion of leading agriculturists that the fertility of the Black Belt can be more easily and readily restored by the use of fertilizer that comes from dairy cows and by the use of legumes.

"Good inoculation is necessary for the successful growth of legumes and stable manure greatly aids the inoculation. Therefore, dairy cows will play an important part in restoring our soils to their virgin fertility."

NEW YORK CITY WORLD
JULY 5, 1925

NEGROES DRIVEN FROM THE SOUTH BY BOLL WEEVIL

Depression of Areas Affected by the Scourge Given Principle Credit for Exodus

STATISTICS SHOW GREAT DEPRECIATION IN VALUES

Lynchings, Peonage and Discriminating Practices Are Not Chief Cause of Move

By Lester A. Walton

The 1925 farm census taken by the United States Department of Commerce supports the theory that Negro migration is fundamentally a question of economics. While lynching, peonage and discrimnatory practices to some extent may have been elementary forces, the unprecedented exodus from the South is directly attributed to general depression in the boll weevil areas, coupled with a scarcity of labor in Northern industrial centres.

The coming of the boll weevil and the going of the Negro have cost the South many millions of dollars. The farm census shows that since 1920 there has been a great shrinkage in cotton production and farm values. Predictions that the Southern Negro could not stand the rigorous winters above the Mason and Dixon line are not borne out by investigation. More than 75 per cent. of those who have moved Northward remain.

States Hardest Hit

Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, North and South Carolina have been the hardest hit and the boll weevil is pictured in the report as an arch-villain whose wicked ways have made cotton crops most uncertain, thereby forcing the Negro cropper and tenant to desert the farm for the factory.

McDuffie County, Ga., has suffered the greatest financial loss of any in the cotton belt. Jan. 1, 1920, the value of lands and buildings was $4,157,602. To-day it has shrunk to $1,522,400. The land alone was worth $3,115,597 five years ago, as compared to $1,087,000 in 1925. In 1919 the county raised 12,389 bales of cotton to 5,165 in 1924. There were under cultivation in 1924 some 32,147 acres of cotton, while last year the acreage was 15,838.

The number of Negroes operating farms in McDuffie County Jan. 1, 1920, was 1,045, and 623 to-day, a loss of 422. This easily explains why the farm acreage under cultivation has decreased from 129,040 to 105,030, a difference of 24,010 acres. Tenant farmers have decreased from 1,407 to 927.

In Charlestown County, S. C., 3,400 Negroes tilled the soil five years ago and there are 3,002 at present, a loss of 398. What the migration has meant to plantation owners is expressed in figures telling that 2,627 persons owned land in 1920 and 2,133 in 1925. Cotton growth in 1919 amounted to 9,260 bales and 3,198 in 1924. Swine raised in 1920 numbered 22,710 and last year 11,144.

Madison County, Fla., had 828 Negroes working on farms in 1920 and 630 are at present employed, a difference of 198. Value of land has decreased from $3,461,473 to $3,152,713. Comparative data for 1920 and 1925 also gives, respectively: Horses, 812 and 429; mules, 2,191 and 1,825; cattle, 13,828 and 8,999; swine, 30,391 and 18,744; corn grown, 487,249 bushels and 311,220; cotton grown, 1,277 bales and 1,185.

Edgefield County, S. C., birthplace of the late Senator Tillman, reduced its cotton acreage from 49,923 in 1919 to 30,063 in 1924, with a corresponding decrease in production from 25,321 to 15,369 bales. The total number of farms in operation fell from 3,991 to 2,928, and the value of farm lands depreciated from $12,995,423 to $7,647,904.

In Bleckley County, Ga., 470 Negroes operated farms in 1920 and 176 in 1925, a decrease of 294. In this county there has been a preponderance of white farmers.

Big Losses

Hampton, Chesterfield, Union and other counties in South Carolina are reported to have suffered from the abandonment of farms occasioned by the ravages of the boll weevil and other causes. Milton, Tattnal, Dade, Dougherty and scores of other Georgia counties have also experienced big losses in production and values.

There is a tendency in former cotton counties to cut up big plantations and turn them into smaller farms on which are being raised a variety of crops. Charleston County, S. C., has more tenant farmers than in 1920. Some 400 Negro operators have left in five years, but the county has gained 160 white. However, the cotton production dropped from 9,260 bales in 1919 to 3,198 in 1924.

The census reports tell the story of the gradual retirement of the tenant farmer who is being forced out by the boll weevil. To insure a rapid growth a cotton, a rotation of crops and intensive farming to improve the land is absolutely necessary. In some of the boll weevil sections there has been a marked increase in the production of fruit-peaches in Georgia and apples in the Carolinas.

Eastern North Carolina counties have lost heavily in values and production, but in Western counties not touched by the boll weevil the number of farms and farm values have increased, particularly in the Piedmont and mountain regions. Palm Beach, Fla., County reports a "very large increase in the number of farms due to the unusual development of the area." Land values have increased from $150 an acre to $250.

In many counties in Alabama the production of cotton is at a low ebb and the farmers are giving heed to the rallying cry: "Diversification and Rotation of Crops!"

Texas Recovering

Texas, the first State to be visited by the boll weevil, is recovering from its blight and producing cotton in large quantities, the 1925 census returns brings to light. In 1919 Modland County produced 951 bales and 3,43[illegible] bales in 1924. The number of farms in 1920 were [illegible] and in 1925 there are 266. Real [illegible]ry produced 175 bales in 1919 and [illegible] in 1924.

When the migration was at its height in [illegible]3, and even since, the wholesale [illegible]s of the Negro farmhand was at [illegible] times emphasized but rarely, if ever, was mention made that large numbers of white rural workers and Negroes in other walks of life were deserting the Southland for the North, East and West.

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In bidding Dixie goodby, Negroes in urban communities have not appeared so spectacular as the farmhand; nevertheless, dissatisfied business men, physicians, preachers, dressmakers and ordinary laborers have been forsaking the South at an

Agriculture—1925.

Condition of.

Cotton Farmers of the South Should Not Fear Competition From India

NEXT to the United States, India plants the largest acreage in cotton of all cotton growing countries. The latest estimate of the 1924 crop is 5,011,000 bales of 478 pounds of lint. This was produced from 26,415,000 acres. The yield per acre, therefore, was about 90 pounds of lint cotton.

The acreage in 1923 was 23,088,000 acres, or 3,327,000 acres less than in 1924. The yield in 1923 was also a little less, being 4,247,000 bales, or about 88 pounds per acre.

Progressive Farmer

India will probably increase her acreage quite rapidly during the next few years, if prices remain near the present levels; but before she can ever become a very serious competitor of this country she will have to increase her yields, cultivate more acres per man and produce a better average length and quality of staple. With average yields of 75 to 90 pounds per acre, of very short cotton, India, although she increases her acreage and improves the quality of her cotton will require many years to become a serious competitor to American cotton growers, if we do our duty and make reasonable progress in efficient production. We produce about twice as much per acre and our cotton is of much better average quality, and we also cultivate more acres per man. Surely with this start we ought to improve our methods and gain in efficient production as rapidly as the less intelligent people of India. While they are doubling their production per acre and improving the quality of their lint, we surely ought to be able by better methods, to double our production per man by increasing our soil fertility and cultivating more acres per man. There will still be much for our cotton farmers to learn about production, so long as we produce less than 200 pounds per acre, and we have not produced even that low average yield per acre since 1914.

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New York Herald
Aug 25 1925
New York Times
New York Daily

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General.

SOUTHERN AGRICULTURE.

A Survey of Actual Conditions as They Affect Cotton Growing and General Farming.

By FRANK ROHN.

Our cotton States east of the Mississippi face the second great change of their history. During the Civil War their labor system was destroyed. Now their whole agricultural structure is being altered. The change is fundamental and inevitable. The system must be rebuilt from the ground up.

In part the South shares this larger agricultural problem with the other farming sections of the nation. Everywhere our old system of agriculture is being revolutionized. Modern machinery requires a new type and ever larger units of capital. The new conditions of marketing demand organization locally and nationally. Our progressive farmers are attempting, in all sections, to adjust themselves to these new conditions. But in the Southeast the crisis is doubly acute. Like Iowa, South Carolina must learn the difficult task of scientific agriculture and cooperative marketing. But South Carolina must do more. The boll weevil is forcing her to proceed hurriedly, and as best she can, into diversified agriculture.

Everywhere in the South one hears the burning question, "What will the weevil do to us this year?" If the South picks another short crop this season hundreds of thousands of farmers east of the Mississippi will face insolvency. Now to fight the weevil successfully takes money. It means the expenditure of more money than the present price of cotton justifies. Under conditions of weevil infestation either the price must rise or less and less cotton will be grown. Before the coming of the weevil the growing of cotton was a "fool-proof" operation. The most ignorant laborer using the most primitive tools could get the job done. Today its production requires skill and infinite patience. Growing cotton has become a highly specialized form of farm labor and administration.

"We face a crucial transformation, not only in Southern agriculture but in the everyday life of the world," said a Southern cotton manufacturer to the writer recently. This manufacturer is one of the most efficient and best informed in the South. "We shall probably see the growth of flax in the West," he went on to say. "People use cotton because it is cheap. This nation and the whole world has concluded that 20 cents a pound is enough to pay for cotton. If it costs more than that they will use wool or silk, but above all else linen; so the farming part in cloth production will be largely removed from the South to the West."

The simple fact is that under the very best conditions of fighting the weevil that we can foresee, this manufacturer's prophecy will be in part fulfilled. Doubt about this matter is a thing of the past. These States must produce swine, dairy cattle and poultry. They must grow vegetables and fruits. And they must do these things well in order to compete with other sections. Last year's average of lint cotton in South Carolina was only 178 pounds per acre. In Georgia it was 157 pounds, and in North Carolina 201 pounds. The profit on this yield with cotton at 20 cents does not pay the lowest scale of wages. It does not pay taxes. It cannot keep the Southern farmer on the farm.

As an example, let us glance at conditions in Georgetown County, South Carolina. The Department of Commerce has just published the recent census (1924) report for this county. Since 1919 its number of farmers has decreased from 1,834 to 1,720. Cattle decreased from 7,259 to 4,391 and swine from 12,172 to 8,643. The tobacco acreage was cut to two-fifths and the crop to one-fourth of the previous census. Finally cotton, the staple crop, was reduced in acreage from 7,343 to 3,833, and in bales harvested from 4,254 to 1,208. No wonder the total farm values were cut to one-half of what they were in 1919.

A totally false notion obtains in the North that the South is prosperous. This is true only of a very small class in the cities. The economic status of the Southern farmer is indicated by the facts just cited. A minority of these farmers are now in process of learning the new agriculture. The job of teaching the majority under present conditions is a task before which anybody might despair. Considerably more than half the workers in the Southern fields, east of the Mississippi, are negroes. About half the remainder are white tenant farmers. Both these classes are generally incapable of modern farm practice. So the older South is thus being harried and driven before generally chaotic farm conditions on the one hand and the devastating scourge of an insect pest on the other. Considered as a national problem it is the reorganization of our agriculture, not the solution of the industrial problem, which constitutes the most pressing task of our American statesmanship. A great wind of economic change has struck us squarely and twisted us about.

For a full century our main export crop has been cotton. The production of cotton goods now ranks fifth in the value of our manufactures. The decrease of cotton production is bound to react adversely upon our whole national economic life. As the South is driven before the weevil into diversified farming she will compete with every agricultural section outside the main wheat belt. Her conditions of production will affect the standard of living of our farmers in the East, Middle West and Far West. So the present predicament of the South is far from being a sectional problem. All sections have prospered with her prosperity. Now all of us are certain to share her distress.

Is Southern agriculture to become decadent?

This question concerns, most directly, the status of some three millions of farm families. These are about equally divided as to color. Are these fifteen millions of people, and their increase, to thrive in the country, or are a majority of them to be thrown into our industrial cities and towns?

Meanwhile a new Southern leadership has responded to the call of agricultural needs. This leadership is formulating plans which, it is hoped, may lead the section on to better things. For a decade the slogan of Southern rural progress has been "Better schools and better roads." Many thousands of miles of good roads and many hundreds of consolidated schools and rural high schools have been recently built. Now the new leadership would increase this program. It would reclaim wide areas of swamp lands and cut-over lands. It would give every landless family the chance to own a farm. It would teach agricultural cooperation, not only for purposes of production and sale, but to the larger end of a new rural society and civilization in the South.

The South deserves what she has never received from the North—she deserves to be understood. In all the history of the nation we in the North have never really tried to take her point of view. We have looked upon the vast and peculiar burdens which have bowed her down for a century as though they sprang from a moral and not an eco-

Colored People Driven From South By Boll Weevil, Says Lester A. Walton

Lynching Peonage and Discriminating Practices Not Chief Cause He Says---Statistic Show Depreciation in Value---Give Economic Reason as Primary Cause.

By Lester A. Walton
In N. Y. World

The 1925 farm census taken by the United States Department of Commerce supports the theory that Negro migration is fundamentally a question of economics. While lynching peonage, and discriminatory practices to some extent may have been elementary forces, the unprecedented exodus from the South is directly attributed to general depression in the boll weevil areas, coupled with a scarcity of labor in Northern industria centres.

The coming of the boll weevil and the going of the Negro have cost the South many millions of dollars. The farm census shows that since 1920 there has been a great shrinkage in cotton production and farm values Predictions that the Southern Negro could not stand the rigorous winters above the Mason and Dixon line are not borne out by investigation. More than 75 per cent. of those who have moved Northward remain.

States Hardest Hit

Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, North and South Carolina have been the hardest hit and the boll weevil is pictured in the report as an arch-villain whose wicked ways have made cotton crops most uncertain, thereby forcing the Negro cropper and tenant to desert the farm for the future.

McDuffie County, Ga., has suffered the greatest financial loss of any in the cotton belt. January 1, 1925, the value of lands and buildings was $4,157,602. Today it has shrunk to $1,522,400. The land alone was worth $3,115,597 five years ago, as compared to $1,087,000 in 1925. In 1919 the county raised 12,389 bales of cotton to 5,165 in 1925. There were under cultivation in 1924 some 32,147 acres of cotton, while last year the acreage was 15,838.

The number of Negroes operating farms in McDuffie County, Jan. 1, 1920, was 1,045, and 623 today, a loss of 422. This easily explains why the farm acreage under cultivation has decreased from 129,040 to 150,030, a difference of 24,010 acres. Tenant farmers have decreased from 1,407 to 927.

In Charlestown County, S. C., 3,400 Negroes tilled the soil five years ago and there are 3,002 at present, a loss of 398. What the migration has meant to plantation owners is expressed in figures telling that 2,627 persons owned land in 1920 and 2,133 in 1925. Cotton growth in 1919 amounted to 9,260 bales and 3,198 in 1924. Swine raised in 1920 numbered 22,710 and last year 11,144.

Madison County, Fla., had 828 Negroes working on farms in 1920 and 530 are at present employed a difference of 298. Value of land has decreased from $3,461,473 to $3,152,-713. Comparative data for 1920 and 1925 also gives respectively: Horses, 312 and 429; mules 2,191 and 1,825; cattle 13,828 and 8,999; swine 30,-391 and 18,744; corn grown 487,249 bushels and 311,220; cotton grown 1,277 bales, and 1,185.

Edgefield County, S. C., birthplace of the late Senator Tillman, reduced its cotton acreage from 49,923 in 1919 to 30,063 in 1924, with a corresponding decrease in production from 25,321 to 15,369 bales. The total number of farms in operation fell from 3,991 to 2,928, and the value of farm lands depdeciated from $12,995,423 to $7,-647,904.

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There is a tendency in former cotton counties to cut up big plantations and turn them into smaller farms on which are being raised a variety of cotton crops. Charleston County, S. C., has more tenant farmers than in 1920. Some 400 Negro operators have left in five years, but the county has gained 160 white. However, the cotton production dropped from 9,260 bales in 1919 to 3,198 in 1924.

The census reports tell the story of the gradual retirement of the tenant farmer who is being forced out by the boll weevil. To insure a rapid growth of cotton, a rotation of crops and intensive farming to improve the land is absolutely necessary. In some of the boll weevil sections there has been a marked increase in the production of fruit-peaches in Georgia, and apples in the Carolinas.

Eastern North Carolina counties have lost heavily in values and production, but in Western counties, not touched by the boll weevil the number of farms and farm values have increased, particularly in the Piedmont and mountain regions. Palm Beach, Fla., County reports a "very large increase in the number of farms due to the unusual development of the area." Land values have increased from $150 an acre to $250.

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Texas, the first State to be visited by the boll weevil, is recovering from its blight and producing cotton in large quantities, the 1925 census returns brings to light. In 1919 Modland County produced 951 bales and 3,439 bales in 1925 The number of farms in 1920 were 133 and in 1925 there were 266. Real County produced 175 bales in 1919 and 344 in 1924.

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In bidding Dixie goodby, Negroes in urban communities have not appeared so spectacular as the farmhand; nevertheless dissatisfied business men, physicians, preachers, dressmakers and ordinary laborers have been forsaking the South at an astonishing rate, and have materially helped to increase the North's Negro population to nearly 1,000,000 since 1917.

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LABOR, CROP, BOLL WEEVIL BOTHER SOUTH

Dixie Is Alarmed by "Triple Threat"

Discussion of the triple-threat problem—cotton, boll weevil and migration—which for the past few years has greatly menaced southern production and which, it is estimated, will in years to come more largely affect the entire national life, is made by T. M. Campbell, field agent of the United States department of agriculture, located at Tuskegee institute, Ala. Agricultural experts have calculated that the only way to curb this, the most destructive element in the history of the South and one of the most serious national problems ever to arise, will be to give Race farmers still living in the South every opportunity possible and to place them under the most favorable circumstances.

Mr. Campbell's further opinion is this:

"The whole South is at present undergoing an almost radical change in agricultural practice, due in part to the ravages of the cotton boll weevil and the competitive bid for Race labor. In short, the battle is now waged between southern agriculture and southern and northern industry. The great question is, 'Who will win, and what will be the ultimate outcome?'

NORTHERN EXODUS STILL GOING ON

"The so-called exodus is still going on. Many substantial farmers are leaving the southern farms in such a manner as to terribly demoralize production. It is true that the Mexican cotton boll weevil has played havoc with the cotton industry for the past 18 or 20 years, but the South must go on with the production of cotton, and in addition must produce a greater proportion of its own food and feed supplies. The one big task which the South is facing today is to keep the thrifty, hard-working laborer on the farm, and on the other hand get rid of the boll weevil. Needless to say, a remedy is being sought for this condition. Agricultural extension work, as carried on by the federal and state governments in co-operation with Hampton and Tuskegee institutes today, is possibly the greatest agency now in sight for solving the above mentioned problem among our people.

"There are at present working in the 15 southern states less than 300 Race extension agents, men and women. The work that is being done by these agents has long since passed the experimental stage, and while there are less than 300 of these men and women employed throughout the whole southern territory (cotton belt) by reason of the nature of their work, they get closer to the problem that most rural workers, and are, therefore, important factors in the composition of any program for the future development and improvement of southern agriculture. The effect which these agents now at work have had in stabilizing general conditions among farmers is self-evident.

MORE EXTENSION AGENTS NECESSARY

"In order to get appreciable results, there should be an extension agent located in every county in the South that has a Race population of over 25 per cent. It is felt that only through these channels can the masses of the farmers connect up with the constituted agencies designed to vitalize country life everywhere. In order to shoulder his part of the national burden in agriculture, the farmer must be in a position to secure cheaper money on longer terms with which to operate and improve his farm. He needs a better home and labor-saving devices in that home, improved live stock, labor and time-saving machinery on his farm, so as to allow more time for his children to attend school. He needs better school facilities, including better school houses and longer terms, better prepared and better paid teachers, and last, but not least, county, state and federal health units which employ doctors and nurses to go as missionaries of sanitation into his home, so organized as to penetrate the most backward sections of the South far removed from cities and other centers of influence. Cotton, boll weevil, migration—these three constitute a national problem, and the situation can only be changed by increasing the average Race farmers' earning capacity through the teaching of better farm and home methods.

Agriculture-1925
Condition of.

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General.

a wise thing for the land owner, loan companies and business men of our section to remember that the outside world is going to measure our invitation to intelligent, suitable home seekers on the farm by one of two yard-sticks—our production per acre or the price we offer to the man who breaks ties in his present home to form new ties here with us.

Whatever may be our good opinion of ourselves, we must be careful to remember that the entire agricultural world is on the "bargain counter" today and many sections have organized sales forces that are reaching out for the customer who has the cash and the capacity to make good in a new home.

The Black Belt has made too great a contribution to the history of Alabama to be abandoned and become idle, and it is time that our people give serious consideration to the absolute necessity of bringing in to this section a large number of new people who will not only fit in with conditions on our heavy soils, but who will also fit in with our citizenship.

These people will have to build homes, build soils and build a permanent system of agriculture and to do this they will expect lands at low values and time in which to work out their plans.

NEW YORK CITY WORLD
JULY 5, 1925

NEGROES DRIVEN FROM THE SOUTH BY BOLL WEEVIL

Depression of Areas Affected by the Scourge Given Principle Credit for Exodus

STATISTICS SHOW GREAT DEPRECIATION IN VALUES

Lynchings, Peonage and Discriminating Practices Are Not Chief Cause of Move

By Lester A. Walton

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NEW YORK CITY TIMES
JULY 21, 1925

SOUTHERN LAND-OWNING.

The Struggle of Small Farmers, White and Black, to Meet Changing Conditions.

When the average Northerner thinks about the South the stage of his mind is usually set with very old furniture and the scene is still cast in terms of the old-fashioned Southern plantation. The planter with his great house, the old fashioned Southern family in the midst of its servants—all this lends itself easily to pleasing romance. In reality this older life long since passed away.

The writer recently visited one of these old-time plantation mansions in South Carolina. As built in 1848, it was a grand house. Today it is occupied by a white tenant farmer. The original plantation included 800 acres. The present farm has been cut down to a plot of 17 acres. Of that area this tenant farmer cultivates only twenty-five acres. On the remainder he pastures a cow and picks blackberries. Ceilings have been pulled down for kindling wood. The farmer's family lives in the kitchen and a couple of small bedrooms. The great hall, drawing room and library, in which the neighboring gentry of ante-bellum times were entertained, are now surrendered to the rats and birds. Rain drives in at the windows. We do not mean to imply that this picture represents the whole South. That would be a very mistaken notion. What it does represent is the general drift of Southern plantation agriculture. During sixty years this older agriculture has steadily failed to adapt itself to the new conditions.

Meanwhile several new social groups have been emerging. The type now best known in New York is the successful Southern business man. The banker is naturally the connecting link between Southern business and the North. Southern manufacturers, especially cotton manufacturers, have taken a large place in the nation's industrial life. Much excellent water power and hydroelectricity have been developed. These industries have drawn much Northern capital. In general Southern railroads are efficiently operated and managed. Much progress has been made in this last field during the past fifteen years. But Southern business is built upon a shifting and unprofitable agriculture.

The second most important type which has been emerging since the Civil War is the home-owning, small white farmer. For a full generation this man made slow but steady progress. He developed a considerable degree of political power. His political representatives have sometimes become Governors and members of Congress. Yet at his strongest position, in 1919, he numbered less than one-half of the Southern white farm population. Today he is sinking down into tenancy, staggering under a heavy mortgage, or deserting the soil altogether.

It would seem logical that the period of the recent war and the peace, the five years from 1915 to 1920, should have placed the Southern small farmer at least temporarily upon the way to success. Prices were universally high. The boll weevil had not yet invaded the territory east of the Alleghanies. But what are the facts? The census of 1920 shows that the number of independent white farmers in South Carolina (and this is approximately true of all the older South) increased but 2 per cent. during the ten years from 1910 to 1920. Meanwhile, the number of negro farm owners in South Carolina increased 11 per cent. during those ten years.

As to the condition of the negro farm owner there appears, superficially, to be scope for the optimist. Starting with nothing sixty years ago, he seems to have made large gains in holdings of farm property. But naked statistics are apt to be extremely illusory. There are exceptions, but in general the negro farm owner has won his property by adopting a low standard of living. He buys his acres by going without coat and shoes, without sugar and salt. In this process the small white farmer cannot compete with him. That is why, during twenty-five years past, the number of negro owners in some States shows an increase, while the number of white farm owners has remained practically stationary or actually declined.

The negro farm owners in the South have been urged on and helped by a variety of forces. They owe much to Hampton, Tuskegee and similar institutions. The negro has been the object, throughout the South, of a strenuous farm-owning propaganda. Yet the progress could not have been made were it not for the kindly and constant help of their more affluent white neighbors. Again and again have individual negro farm owners, in their homes, told the writer about this feature in connection with their success. No other such emancipated people has ever been so generously treated. While much has been done for the negro he has also done much for himself. The history of the world furnishes few parallels to the growth of this people in development of mind and moral responsibility.

Yet it is only the small minority of the negroes who can rise to farm ownership. This minority combines exceptional intelligence and a measure of education with infinite patience, industry and a low standard of living. Among a hundred negroes a few succeed. South Carolina had, in 1920, a negro rural population of 748,230 and 22,759 negro farm owners. In North Carolina the negro farm owners number 22,277 out of a total rural negro population of 608,242. In Georgia the figures are 16,042 and 933,829. So at the height of agricultural prosperity in 1920 less than one-seventh of the rural negro families in those three States were listed as owning the land they worked—and many of these farms, being under mortgage, are only theoretically owned by their occupants.

Southern soil is sure to be cultivated in ever-increasing areas. This crowding world needs those fertile acres too much to leave them long untilled. But we cannot be at all certain of the future character of Southern society. As one motors along the country roads and through wide forest lands the questions constantly suggest themselves: What will tomorrow bring forth? Whose hands will till these half million square miles?

The Southern lands will be cultivated either as independent small farms or as large plantations worked by negro wage-earners. We have a clear indication of this latter process on the sea islands off the South Carolina coast. The boll weevil having totally destroyed the sea island cotton, those lands are being turned into truck farms. These truck gardens, both from the process of tillage required and the conditions of the market, are not profitably worked by tenants. The result is that there are islands where the negro wage-workers outnumber the white owners and managers ten or twenty to one. If this system thrives generally, if the small farmer is driven out, then the future of the agricultural South can be easily foreseen.

The last thing the writer intends to imply or suggest is the least unkindly or ungenerous thought regarding the future of the negro in the South. But the new leadership in the South and its responsible citizenship, and the nation as a whole, must look at the facts with open eyes and open minds. Thought upon this matter is clarifying among the leaders of both races. They are coming to see that the negroes had far better be distributed throughout the country. In that case their numbers will cease to set the standards of labor and life among the white workers of the South.

Letters to Editor

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NEW YORK CITY TIMES
JULY 21, 1925

SOUTHERN LAND-OWNING.

The Struggle of Small Farmers, White and Black, to Meet Changing Conditions.

When the average Northerner thinks [illegible] about the South the stage of his mind is usually set with very old furniture. The scene is still cast in terms of the old-fashioned Southern plantation. The planter with his great house, the old-fashioned Southern family in the midst of its servants—all this lends itself easily to pleasing romance. In reality this older life long since passed away. The writer recently visited one of these old-time plantation mansions in South Carolina. As built in 1848, it was a grand house. Today it is occupied by a white tenant farmer. The original plantation included 800 acres. The present farm has been cut down to a plot of 17 acres. Of that area this tenant farmer cultivates only twenty-five acres. On the remainder he pastures a cow and picks blackberries. Ceilings have been pulled down for kindling wood. The farmer's family lives in the kitchen and a couple of small bedrooms. The great hall, drawing room and library, in which the neighboring gentry of ante-bellum time were entertained, are now surrendered to the rats and birds. Rain drives in at the windows. We do not mean to imply that this picture represents the whole South. That would be a very mistaken notion. What it does represent is the general drift of Southern plantation agriculture. During sixty years this older agriculture has steadily failed to adapt itself to the new conditions.

Meanwhile several new social groups have been emerging. The type now best known in New York is the successful Southern business man. The banker is naturally the connecting link between Southern business and the North. Southern manufacturers, especially cotton manufacturers, have taken a large place in the nation's industrial life. Much excellent water power and hydroelectricity have been developed. These industries have drawn much Northern capital. In general Southern railroads are efficiently operated and managed. Much progress has been made in this last field during the past fifteen years. But Southern business is built upon a shifting and unprofitable agriculture.

The second most important type which has been emerging since the Civil War is the home-owning, small white farmer. For a full generation this man made slow but steady progress. He developed a considerable degree of political power. His political representatives have sometimes become Governors and members of Congress. Yet at his strongest position, in 1910, he numbered less than one-half of the Southern white farm population. Today he is sinking down into tenancy, staggering under a heavy mortgage, or deserting the soil altogether.

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AGRICULTURE-1925
LABOR CONDITIONS

Agriculture: Labor Conditions -1925.
(Peonage Here).
See Also: Labor.

Agriculture - 1925

Labor Conditions

Alabama.

GOING NORTH FOR NEGRO COTTON PICKERS

Coahoma county, Mississippi, that contains Clarksdale and is situated in the delta, thought it was ruined when the boll weevil came, and it was damaged, especially when thousands of its negro farm hands left to get profitable employment wherever they could. Today a dispatch from Clarksdale to the Memphis Commercial Appeal tells of a distressful for hands to pick "what may prove to be the largest cotton crop in the history of Coahoma!" Fancy that.

But what is even more interesting is the plan of Coahoma planters to get cotton pickers. They held a mass meeting at Clarksdale and raised a fund of $2,000 with which to pay the expenses of negroes from Chicago to Clarkedale and back, and put a committee on the train to go after the negroes. The dispatch states that return passenger tickets will be provided for all who wish to go to the delta only during the cotton-picking season. The fields are white with high-priced cotton, and this novel step had to be taken. Yet it is not an extravagant, visionary thing to do. We dare say the committee will get some cotton pickers. There isn't a former field hand among the negroes of the industrial cities who doesn't feel the call of the cotton bolls at this season of the year; and work is not so plentiful in Chicago and elsewhere that there are not many idle negroes. They can come down and clean up the cotton, and if they desire, return home long before Christmas.

BLACK BELT FARM LABOR DISCUSSED

Jesse Hearin Outlines Fallacies of Eleven Alabama Counties to Kiwanis

Shortage of productive man power in the eleven Black Belt counties of Alabama was dwelt upon in a talk before the Montgomery Kiwanis club Tuesday by Jesse B. Hearin, manager of the farm section of the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Hearin made a number of striking statements, based upon his investigation of economic conditions in the Black Belt, among these statements being the following:

"There are but 9,000 white men 21 years of age and above in the whole of Montgomery county.

"There are less than 26,000 white men 21 years of age and older in the eleven counties of the Alabama Black Belt.

"Since the beginning of the recent migration of negroes from the south, twice as many negroes have left these eleven Black Belt counties as there are white men above 21 years of age in this section.

Mr. Hearin remarked upon the high quality of Black Belt citizenship, the natural fertility of Black Belt soils, and said that in his opinion the whole problem revolves about this question of peopling the Black Belt's fertile lands. He said that this must come before we can hope to get industries for the cities. Once solve the land problem, and industries, he thought, would follow."

The Kiwanians were entertained by songs rendered by Mrs. Eloise Neely and Alvah Brown, accompanied by Professor Thomas C. Calloway.

Agriculture—1925.
Labor Conditions.

White Farmers War Over Negro Tenants

MEMPHIS, Tenn. Jan. 5.—(A.N. P.)—A war between white farmers, covering several southern states, is now being waged, with Negro tenant farmers as the cause. The migration of Negroes to the North has so seriously affected farm labor that it has placed the large farm owners in the position of fighting to get and fighting to hold their "hands."

During the week there have been two deaths, both caused by one white farmer enticing away the help from another. The first death occurred at North Carrollton, Miss., when Stanley Brady was shot and killed by Melvin Chambley. Brady had accused Chambley of taking his men over a long period. Chambley admitted shooting Brady, but claimed that he did so in self defense.

Much excitement has prevailed in Birmingham, Ala., following the slaying of Eaton Haynes, a white farmer who was called from his home in the night and shot from an ambuscade. The Haynes family and the Rives family, both white, have carried on a feud for more than a year, the first death occurred last year when Hugh Rives was slain. One of the Haynes men, Russell, was tried and discharged. Ill feeling, however, has continued. The Rives was charged with taking a colored worker, James Duncan, from the Haynes. Duncan was arrested soon after the shooting and is being held as the star witness for the state.

General.

Agriculture—1925
Labor Conditions.

MORE PICKERS NEEDED

Franklin Parish, La., Has Biggest Cotton Crop in Years.

WINNSBORO, La., Sept. 17.—Folks are just beginning to realize what a big the cotton crop of Franklin Parish really is. On Sept. 1, 1924, there had been ginned 2,118 bales; on Sept. 1, 1925, the ginners' report was 9,843, and it is conservatively estimated that the ginners' report for Sept. 15, 1925, will be about 18,000 bales, while the total ginning for 1924 was 20,311 bales.

R. H. Benton, Jr., county agent, realizes fully the need of cotton pickers, and he estimates that it will take 750 to 1,000 cotton pickers to finish up this year's crop and these are badly needed at once. Senator T. B. Gilbert at Wisner, La., needs 500 cotton pickers on his plantation alone, and he has lots of cotton that has never been picked over. There is so much cotton that is making a high yield that the cotton pickers here are making good wages. The cooks and servants of the towns in Franklin Parish have all deserted their posts for the cotton fields, and still there is not enough labor to anyways near meet the demand.

Louisiana.

Agriculture – 1925

Labor Conditions.

Texas.

BOTH BLACK AND WHITE CHILDREN IN TEXAS CHEATED OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS

NEW YORK, April 22.—A study of the cotton field child workers of Texas, made by the national child labor committee and reported by the New York committee of that organization, tells how the educational progress of the children is retarded by the time lost in the fields.

The investigation covered 998 families with 5,121 persons in six counties of Texas. It was found that the white child lost one-fourth of the school session, with 62 per cent of this due to work in the cotton fields. Negro children lost one-half school time, with 85 per cent of this loss due to the cotton work.

Children of from 6 to 16 years work in the fields from nine to eleven hours during the cotton season. In the spring planting, the cultivating and shopping and in the cotton picking the children are conscripted to the task by their poverty-stricken parents. Those are the hard facts; they are offered without recommendations.

Agriculture 1925

Labor Conditions.

Peonage (Alabama)

Wilcox Planters Waive Hearing On Count Of Peonage

SELMA, ALA., March 13.—Frank Beck and M. E. Curtis, Jr., prominent young citizens of Camden, waived preliminary hearing before United States Commissioner on charges of peonage, Friday afternoon, and were held to await the action of the federal grand jury.

In connection with their hearing, and charged jointly with them, is a negro, Will Simpe, who was alleged by the United States Department of Justice operatives, assisted Beck and Curtis in holding negro tenants on their farms against the will of the negroes.

Investigation in the case has been conducted by the United States Department of Justice, and the charges will be laid before the federal grand jury in July.

All three of the men are at liberty under bond.

LABOR RECRUITER SHOT BY OFFICER

Dothan, Ala., September 7.—(AP)—Doss Livingston, alleged Florida labor recruiter, was shot probably fatally, and Bob Sealy was wounded three times, in a brush with deputy sheriffs 20 miles from this city about midnight Sunday, it was learned today. Deputy Sheriff Grant Hall declared that, accompanied by Sealy, he intercepted Livingston as he left Rambo's mill with 12 laborers.

Livingston's life is hanging by a thread.

Sealy declared he warned Livingston Saturday night not to bother the men at the mill but that Livingston returned the next day and loaded the negroes into a truck. Hall and Sealy blocked the road with their car and the shooting followed.

Peonage (Mississippi)

Agriculture 1925

Labor Conditions.

Three Farmers Arrested In Mississippi For Peonage

Jackson, Miss., Feb. 20.—Three prominent Mississippi planters were arrested and after preliminary hearing granted bail on charges of peonage, growing out of the alleged holding of a convict. One of the planters against whom charges were preferred is a former sheriff of Holmes county. 2-25-25.

The arrest o the trio was the second peonage case investigated by he department o justice within ten days, two of Smith county having been arrested several days ago.

According to federal officers, W. C. Taylor of Crger, Holmes county, with the aid of Walter Prine and James Anding, Hazelhurt, Copiah county, orcibly carried Primus Allis rom Copiah county to Holmes county to work on Taylor's plantation. Taylor is a former sheriff of Holmes county.

N. Y. BROOKLYN HOME NEWS
FEBRUARY 24, 1925

Three Southern Planters Held on Peonage Charge

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Agriculture - 1925

Labor Conditions.

Georgia.

PLANTER SOLVES LABOR PROBLEM ON BROOKS FARM

Quitman, Ga., March 28.—(Special.) One man in Brooks county has solved the farm labor and other farming problems this year, if no one else has. Last year B. W. Gaddis had a great deal of difficulty with farm help; the tenant farmers were discouraged and did not believe in any new farm program suggested.

In October Mr. Gaddis made a trip to north Georgia and North Carolina among the people he used to know before he moved here and by December he had seven families, 30 people in all, located on his place.

They are all delighted with the climate and the situation generally; there is not a negro on the farm; they are planting 28 acres in tobacco and 70 in cotton, with an abundance of feed crops. 3-29-25

Mr. Gaddis declares they are all of a fine type of farmers and that he could have brought many more here if he had places for them.

Americus Leaders Seek Negro Labor

AMERICUS, Ga., Sept. 20.—Working along constructive lines, industrial concerns and farmers here are devising means to procure a sufficient supply of negro labor in this section.

There are a number of vacant farms in the county and sufficient untilled acres to warrant the importation of a large number of negro farmers, and Judge James W. Dixon has suggested that a revolving fund of $5,000 be created to pay the expense of securing necessary labor. The labor would be gotton under the proposed plan in industrial and agricultural centers where a surplus exists and there would be no effort made to embarrass any other section through the emigration of needed labor, it is said.

Agriculture—1925.

Labor Conditions

Tennessee

Pupils Pick Cotton, So Race Schools Close

Memphis, Tenn., (P. N. S.)—Negro schools in counties closed Friday after [illegible] so work on the farms, according to anthe students can be released to nouncement made by Sue Powers, white superintendent of the county schools.

The children are needed in the cotton fields, school authorities were informed. The unusually heavy cotton crop, which is coming in early this year needs immediate attention. None of the white schools were closed.

EXCURISIONISTS THROUGH.

Four Trains in and Out to the Cotton Fields of Delta.

Four excursion trains passed through Memphis yesterday morning on their way to points in the delta country from Chicago and St. Louis. They carried more than 1,000 negro passengers, presumably headed for the cotton fields which are white unto the harvest, the laborers being few. The Illinois Central and the Frisco railroads conducted the excursions.

Two trains also passed through Memphis going back north. These trains were not crowded, according to reports from the Grand Central Station.

One or two discouraging features have developed in this movement to import laborers. Negro politicians in Chicago are said to be combatting the campaign vigorously. Again, some of the excursionists, according to word from Clarksdale yesterday, are not eager to go to work.

On the other hand, the Howard Employment Service of Kansas City announces that it has available 500 cotton pickers for this territory.

Everybody, Even "Deps," to the Cotton Field

Cotton has opened at an enoromusly fast rate in the Memphis territory. The weather has been fine for color and other qualities. The cotton should be picked and picked at once. Everybody can pick cotton. It has been suggested that the schools close two or three weeks to permit [illegible] students to go into the cotton fields.

Ordinarily we are against the closing of schools for anything, but if the three weeks taken out of the fore part of the term were put in at the end of the term it might be a good idea.

There is demand for cotton pickers. It might be well for some of our young folks, black and white, who are loafing around Memphis doing nothing to go into the cotton field.

Effort has been made to bring some of the colored people back. They would be welcomed, and if they were well treated as they should be many of them would probably stay and pick up the threads of their interrupted life in the south.

This brings us to a local suggestion. A number of deputy sheriffs are hanging around magistrates' offices. They are making big fees by arresting negroes. The Memphis police are entirely capable of policing this city. They do not need the deputies of the squires, who police for revenue only. If these deputies who do criminal work for the squires would themselves go to the cotton fields they would rather render a better public service than they are now doing.

The above is from the Commercial-Appeal. We can't understand the Commercial-Appeal. It is taken for granted it means for **all the schools to close down for three weeks** "in order for the older students to go into the cotton fields." We thought the "Play Grounds, Municipal Swimming Pools, Parks, Scout Camps etc., were provided at public expense for the lads and lasses of the cities, and far be it from them to in anywise contribute to the production of the country. Now for the sheriffs it is hardly to be expected for them to come out and help save the cotton so long as they have "niggers and poor white folk's bones to pick on." We welcome this change of heart on the part of the Commercial-Appeal. It would also be well to take this same view when the crop is being cultivated. We have entirely too many dependents, too many grafters, too many public officers, too much duplication of effort in every line with the exception of production. Now somebody is providing food and shelter for these "young folks, black and white, who are loafing around Memphis doing nothing" as is claimed by the Commercial-Appeal. Who can blame them? Cut off their rations and their shelter and smoke them out, but let it apply to all alike. Enforce vagrancy lawson all.

Agriculture—1925

Labor Conditions

Arkansas.

MEXICANS WILL PICK COTTON IN ARKANSAS

Planters Announce Plans to Bring Peons Into State in Emergency

HELENA, ARK., Sept. 19.—Approximately 300 Mexican peons will be brought from south Texas to cotton plantations in the eastern part of Phillips county, if plans of half a dozen planters, announced here today, are carried out. Representatives of these men are now in Texas for the purpose of arranging for the Mexican laborers. The project is the result of a labor shortage here and early maturity of the cotton crop due to the drought. It is not expected that the imported laborers will remain here after the cotton picking season is over.

200 MEXICANS DUE.

Large Number to Be Engaged for Mississippi County Planters.

OSCEOLA, Ark., Sept. 22.—Two hundred Mexican laborers will arrive here Monday to work in the cotton fields of Mississippi County, if plans of local farmers carry.

H. [illegible] Osceola planter, went today in company with J. K. Oliver, division passenger agent of the Frisco Railroad, to Kansas City, where it is reported that any number of Mexicans are congregated following the wheat harvest, in which they worked in that section and are eagerly seeking employment.

Mr. Nunally was instructed to secure 25 laborers each for the following plantation owners of Osceola: J. H. Hale, John W. Edrington, Hale Jackson, Lee Sullivan, A. G. Brickey and R. C. Rose and will bring 25 back for his own place.

Mr. Friend, in a conference with J. N. Carnatzar, general passenger agent for the Frisco at St. Louis, yesterday secured a cut rate of two-thirds fare from Kansas City to Osceola Saturday night for the benefit of Mexican laborers desiring to come here.

The labor shortage in this section is acute. One Osceola farmer on a drive to Memphis yesterday reported seeing not more than 10 pickers in any one field and that many in only two fields on the road between here and the city. It is estimated that 10 pickers will average scarcely more than a bale a day and it was formerly in this country no unusual sight to see from 50 to 75 pickers in a field with an average turnout of four to eight bales a day.

SHIP MORE MEXICANS.

Several Hundred Picking Cotton in Mississippi County.

BLYTHEVILLE, Ark., Sept. 28.—Several hundred Mexicans have been brought into the county during the past two weeks by the Mississippi County Chamber of Commerce, to relieve the labor shortage, and many more could be used if they can be got. The local commercial organization has had a man in the state of Texas for several weeks now, trying to locate the Mexicans. As each train load arrives the prospective cotton pickers are taken in tow by farmers who are eager to get the crop [illegible].

High prices paid for picking caused such a labor shortage at the Blytheville Cotton Oil Mill that the mill had to be closed down for several days. Manager [illegible] Townsley has secured enough labor to resume crushing, however. Prevailing prices paid for picking range from $1.25 to $2 per hundred pounds. The crop is very fine, and skilled pickers are making good money.

Agriculture—1925

Labor Conditions.

Mississippi

I. C. BRINGS NEGROES FOR COTTON PICKING

700 From Chicago and 1,000 From St. Louis.

POLITICIANS GET BUSY

Chicago Negroes Anxious to Come Back Home, But Negro Politicians Keep Them in "Chi," Where the Pickings Are Scarce.

CHICAGO, Ill., Sept. 19.—Mississippi and other southern states, with one of the greatest cotton crops in the history of certain sections, find themselves short of labor, chiefly cotton pickers. The crop must be gathered speedily to save it and efforts have been made to induce negroes in the cities, living from hand-to-mouth, to return to their old homes, where steady labor at good wages awaits them.

Recently the Illinois Central, pioneer in forward looking movements, ran an excursion to Mississippi points. At that time it is estimated about 1,300 negroes took advantage of the very low rates. A majority of them sold their return tickets and remained in the south.

Encouraged by this experiment, the Illinois Central today sent out two excursion trains, with Memphis the chief destination. For this excursion a round trip rate of $12, was announced. As usual, however, negro politicians who would lose much of their power if the population here is decreased, sent agents throughout the negro section yesterday, and last night, warning all the homesick darkies that the excursions were merely traps to get them back on the plantations. This had a pronounced effect upon the movement and the trek southward was not as heavy as expected and not as extensive as it would have been without interference by the politicians whose livelihood depends upon exploitation of the negro vote.

The first train leaving at 4:30 this afternoon carried approximately 450 persons and will pick up fully as many more between here and the Ohio River.

The second train, departing at 6 o'clock this evening carried 250 negroes and tomorrow will double that number on its trip to the capital city. These estimates were supplied by G. G. Truesdale, assistant general passenger agent, who said the question of running further excursions will not be determined until final returns show whether there are regular or not.

With the certainty that a hard winter is near at hand it is known that hundreds of negroes, who are barely existing here and in other cities, would welcome a chance to return to the south, but for the pernicious activities of politicians, both white and colored. Unusual building activity here has furnished steady employment for thousands of negroes, unskilled laborers and the building boom shows no sign of recession. Until outdoor work closes down, it may be difficult to induce any large number of negroes to return to the south and by that time the cotton crop will have been picked, or ruined by rains and wind and the inducements now held out will be withdrawn.

"POTENTIAL COTTON PICKERS."

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Sept. 19.—More than 1,000 St. Louis negroes will be among the 1,500 passengers migrating tonight on three excursions bound for Memphis, Tenn., and other southern cities. The Illinois Central, Missouri Pacific and Frisco railroads all have offered an excursion rate of $7 for the round trip to Memphis, making the fare less than a third of the usual rate.

The three trains leave St. Louis crowded with the excursionists, most of whom purchased their tickets in advance. Two of the trains left Union Station shortly before 11:30 o'clock. Twenty-two towns will be touched by the three trains, but the greater number of the passengers are bound for Memphis.

250 MEXICANS ARRIVE.

Total in Coahoma County Now Close to 1,200.

CLARKSDALE, Miss., Oct. 6.—Two hundred and fifty Mexicans arrived in Clarksdale this morning from San Antonio, Texas, to assist in picking Coahoma County's mammoth cotton crop. These Mexicans were consigned to the plantations of Planter J. W. McNair and Henderson brothers.

It is estimated that there are now approximately 1,200 Mexicans in the county. Reports state these pickers are improving in their work and are giving fair satisfaction. At first it was claimed that the Mexicans picked considerable trash with the cotton and as a result that the grade was damaged. However, this has been corrected in most instances.

Going North for Negro Pickers

Montgomery Advertiser.

Coahoma county, Misssissippi, that contains Clarksdale and is situated in the Delta, thought it was ruined when the boll weevil came; and it was damaged especially when thousands of its Negro farm hands left to get profitable employment wherever they could. To day a dispatch from Clarksdale to the Memphis Commercial Apeal tells of a distress call for hands to pick "what may prove to be the largest cotton crop in the history of Coahoma!" Fancy that.

But what is even more interesting is the plan of Coahoma planters to get cotton pickers. They had a mass meeting at Clarksdale and raised a fund of $2,000 with which to pay the expenses of Negroes from Chicago to Clarksdale and back, and put a committee on the train to go after the Negroes. The dispatch states that return passenger tickets will be provided for all who wish to go to the Delta only during the cotton picking season. The fields are white with high priced cotton, and this novel step had to be taken. Yet it is not an extravagant, visionary thing to do. We dare say the committee will get some cotton pickers. There isn't a former field hand among the Negroes of the industrial cities who doesn't feel the call of the cotton bolls at this season of the year; and work is not so plentiful in Chicago and elsewhere that there are not many idle Negroes. They can come down and clean up the cotton, and, if they desire, return home long before Christmas.

INDIANS TO PICK COTTON.

Further Relief For Coahoma Planters Promised.

CLARKSDALE, Miss., Oct. 8.—Further relief for the labor shortage of cotton pickers for Coahoma County is promised today between Richard Smith, secretary of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce, and Dr. F. McKinley of Philadelphia, Miss., relative to bringing Indians to this section to assist in the work. Dr. McKinley is the government Indian agent from the reservation at Philadelphia, Miss. He stated a number of Indians under escort could be assigned for this section. He has authorized his office to organize the Indians for cotton picking.

Philadelphia, Miss., is only a day's journey from Clarksdale and the farmers in this locality could convey them here by truck loads, thus cutting the expense of transportation.

200 MEXICANS DUE.

Washington County Secures Cotton Pickers From Texas.

GREENVILLE, Miss., Oct. 1.—President T. H. Baird of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce today received a telegram from Milford Witts, secretary, who has been in Texas representing a number of planters of this territory, that 200 Mexicans were en route to Greenville and would reach here tomorrow evening and the planters interested are requested to meet the train and look after their apportionment of the labor received. One hundred and sixty more of the Mexican cotton pickers will reach Greenville probably Monday.

VAGRANCY DRIVE.

Greenwood Loafers Must Go to Cotton Fields.

GREENWOOD, Miss., Sept. 30.—It's work or go to jail in Greenwood now.

Orders went out to the Greenwood police this morning to round up the loafers and put them in jail where they will go to the county farm for work, unless they choose in the meantime to go to work for themselves.

It is stated that there are many negroes and some few whites in Greenwood who are not working and that with the present serious shortage of labor which is hampering the gathering of the cotton crop and the handling of the products at the compresses and oil mills, idleness will not be permitted.

The labor shortage is still serious and has not been relieved by the importation of labor from other sections to any great extent.

Many negroes were arrested by the police this morning on vagrancy charges and placed in jail.

Vagrancy is a charge of indefinite character and can be predicated on a number of causes. The possession of a few dollars in money will constitute no defense, it is said, and the failure to work can only be excused by a showing that a person is not physically able to do so or has sufficient property to support them in idleness.

The drive in Greenwood will continue until every loafer has a job, as long as the jobs are waiting for them.

LABOR STILL SHORT.

CLARKSDALE, Miss., Sept. 23.—Numbers of cotton pickers are continuing daily to reach Coahoma County to relieve the labor shortage in gathering the largest crop in history. A carload of Mexicans from Texas, consigned to planters at Rome, Miss., arrived in Clarksdale late this afternoon. A car of negro laborers will arrive here tomorrow from Kansas City. This car is consigned to Clarksdale and the pickers will go to the local planters.

A quota of 70 negroes will arrive some time this week for Hal Parchman, planter at Baltzer. This is Mr. Parchman's second consignment of negroes from Kansas City and he says they are giving satisfaction. He stated they would average about 300 pounds per day.

According to a telegram received at the Chamber of Commerce more negro laborers can be had in Chicago. The Chamber of Commerce will communicate this information they have received to any planters who are interested.

Although labor is being imported from Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City and Texas, still the planters are deeply concerned about the labor situation here. Some of the larger land holders believe even with favorable weather prevailing, they will be unable to complete picking their crop before Jan. 1.

An evidence of the shortage of labor is witnessed on the plantations of the Bobo brothers at Lyon, Miss. On the Omega plantation, owned by these men, which is said to contain one of the best crops in the county, only 200 negroes are laboring to pick a crop on 1,800 acres. Some of this land in spotted sections, accordng to Charley Bobo, will yield two bales to the acre. The entire place will average more than a bale. On this place only about 400 bales have been ginned. Mr. Bobo stated he did not expect to put Mexicans on his plantation, but that he would gladly welcome negro labor from the north.

The Bobo brothers have 3,700 acres in their holdings, and they estimate a yield of between 2,800 and 3,000 bales

A NUT TO CRACK

How do the pink-eyed sniffers of the radical press explain the fact that three Southern States, but particularly Mississippi, are sucessfully importing former plantation negroes from their home in Chicago to pick the cotton crop? If the negroes had left the delta and other parts of the South because of oppression and cruelty they would not return. If however, they left the South for economic reasons, and economic reasons alone, it is easy to understand why they heed the call of the cotton plantation at this time. Many of them are not prospering in the industrial centers, but all of them can command profitable wages for picking cotton; hence, those cotton-growers who are financially able to pay the cost of the daring enterprise, seem to be having no trouble in inducing the negroes to return "home" for a few weeks.

Negro Attempts to Jump Labor Contract: Is Shot by Benefactor

CLARKSDALE, Miss., Sept. 28.—Louis Roberts, negro, was seriously wounded here last night when shot by E. J. Mullens, Sr., as he attempted to escape Mr. Mullens after he had demanded that the negro return to the plantation instead of jumping his labor contract and leaving for Vicksburg.

Several years ago the negro was arrested for the murder of an aged couple in Bolivar County and Mr. Mullens went his bond. He was later acquitted. Again he was tried for arson and was again assisted by Mr. Mullens. This year he was under contract and had obtained money in advance on his crop. Mr. Mullens received a tip that he was attempting to leave for Vicksburg and was at the station.

When the planter demanded that the negro put up his hands and accompany him, Louis made a threatening movement. Mr. Mullens marched him down the platform and the black continued to make threatening movements. When they reached a coach of a passenger train he darted toward it and turned as if to draw a weapon. Mr. Mullens fired and the negro was wounded in the side. He ran a few blocks and dropped on the porch at a negro dwelling.

Mr. Mullens was summoned and sent him to the hospital and provided a doctor. He will recover.

Mr. Mullens telephoned the affair to the sheriff's office and this morning made a $500 appearance bond. The trial will take place Saturday morning before Judge R. E. Stratton.

"IT'S TATER DIGGIN' TIME IN DIXIE"

The above caption was used in an appeal to colored families to go to Mississippi to pick cotton by a "Mr. Williams," from Friars Point, Miss., who was in St. Louis last week.

Many other inducements were offered colored families, such as shipment free, house and fuel free and $1.25 per hundred for picking cotton.

Just about the time this special train arrived at its destination, we imagine that instead of being greeted with "tater diggin' time in Dixie," they were greeted with another familiar term used in the South, which many seem to have forgotten, and that was, "Nigger burning time in Mississippi." Those who were beguilded into accepting the free offer, were met by a mob of whites more than a thousand strong, led by Sheriff John W. Roberts celebrating the holiday Sunday by burning one poor innocent Negro in a most barbaric style. Surely the "tater diggin' appeal" is like the story of the spider and the fly.

Agriculture - 1925
Labor Conditions
Mississippi

Mexicans in Cotton Fields of Coahoma

Commercial Appeal 9-21-25 Memphis, Tenn.

Hundreds of Mexican laborers are picking cotton in Mississippi now. Picture shows Mexicans in field in J. R. Adams' plantation, Coahoma County. The Mexicans are said to be satisfactory as cotton pickers.

Arrival of Cotton Pickers Relieves Apprehension, Optimism Holds Sway

With the importation of more than 1,100 negroes from Chicago and St. Louis to work in the cotton fields, prospects are rather bright for a rapid picking season, which will make for better business. It was feared for a while that there was not enough labor in the south to pick the crop, which is one of the largest ever produced.

The negroes were sent for and the Illinois Central Railroad brought in special trains from both Chicago and St. Louis with the negroes aboard. Many of the negroes left the train at Memphis to be taken to the various plantations where help is needed, while about 300 or 400 went on to Clarksdale, Miss., whence they will be taken to plantations in that section. Many of the negroes, it is said, only purchased one-way tickets, which indicates that they expect to remain in the south.

Demand for all commodities continues good in all sections. The fear that the present crop would remain in the field was the only thing that hampered business to any great extent. This fear has been relieved now in large measure, and this will do much to increase buying from all sections. The merchants, as a whole, have enjoyed an unusually good business up until this time, and are preparing to care for the heavy demand which will continue throughout the fall months.

Hot weather has been against good business in practically all lines, with the exception possibly, of foodstuffs. The unseasonable weather has kept many from buying fall clothes, for example, or any of the fall items that it takes cool weather to move. This has greatly hurt the retailer of clothing, but it is expected that with the first cold snap the volume of business will rapidly approach the expected level. This hot weather, however, has not hurt the wholesale trade to any great extent, for although the retailers were missing their early fall demand, they were forced to buy in order to get in on the good stock of merchandise which was offered.

The grocery business has run along at a good pace throughout the early fall months. Wile it is true that unseasonable weather has tended to hurt business to a small degree, this has not greatly handicapped the retailers. Prices are strengthened in all lines, it is reported, but no radical changes are noted.

Cyrus P. Simmons, manager of the Memphis branch of the R. G. Dun & Co. mercantile agency, summarizes conditions as follows in his last weekly review:

Steady improvement characterizes most lines of business, although weather conditions until recently held in check movement of autumn wear. Although the abnormally high temperatures and drouth did some injury to prospects for cotton and reduced expectations considerably in this territory insect damage has been negligible and indications are for the best yield in several years. An unusual amount is open and picking making progress, although scarcity of pickers complained of in some sections. Selling is without restriction and advancing prices causing cheerful feeling. Spot demand good and many obligations being reduced and retail activity increasing.

Banks report money slightly tighter, but in ample supply and some interior banks already taking up notes in advance.

Building activity healthy and labor all well engaged. Lumber reports satisfactory, with demand about enough to take care of output.

Grocery and feed trade tends to improvement, but buyers not disposed to anticipate requirements.

The weekly review of the Associated Press, sent out from New York yesterday says:

The avenues of trade and industry continued to present a bright outlook last week. Reports from the principal centers of manufacturing and distribution were distinctly favorable, revealing increased operations or giving promise of future gains.

Of the actual measures of improvement, a rise in steel operations to above 75 per cent of capacity was of outstanding importance. Increased orders came from several different quarters—in each case testifying to better business in these lines. The enlarged demand for railroad equipment and motors found reflection in the stock market, where the shares of these companies were eagerly bought on the prospect of their improved earnings.

Predicting that trade in the final three months of the year would set a record not equalled since 1919, the National Bank of Commerce asserted that the chief basis for the prevailing optimism was the improved agricultural situation.

Although cotton and corn yields have been materially reduced by the drouth, it was pointed out, it still can be said that there are good crops of both, and prices are satisfactory. Minor crops also are good and prices high enough to compensate.

Despite the fact that retail business showed a tendency to slow up immediately preceding Labor Day, freight loadings for the week ended Sept. 5 exceeded one million cars for the eighth consecutive week. A decrease of about 21,000 cars compared with the preceding week was partly due to the falling off in coal traffic following the anthracite suspension.

Railroad men generally reported conditions satisfactory in all parts of the country and indicated that the August earnings statements would make pleasant reading.

The growing export demand for American farm products undoubtedly furnishes one of the underlying reasons for returning agricultural prosperity and this demand, in turn, has been promoted by the two billions of dollars which have flowed from this country to the rest of the world in the shape of foreign loans in the past two years. The same amount of American capital invested at home, a leading banker said last week, probably would have been less productive than that which has been sent abroad, rehabilitating foreign finance and industry, restoring Europe's purchasing power and indirectly reaching back to benefit the most important of our industries.

The trend of wholesale commodity prices turned upward last week, advances in pig iron and textiles being considered unusually significant because of their basic importance and their recent tendency to lag behind other products.

A rise in cotton prices, following reduced crop estimates, stimulated the demand for cotton goods and brought about a healthful revival of activity in the cloth markets.

There was practically no actual change in the lumber market situation during the week just past, but there is a persistent air of optimism pervading the market, says the Southern Lumberman in its issue for Sept. 19, and everybody in the trade seems to feel convinced that conditions will gradually strengthen during the coming months. The rains that fell throughout the south during the week breaking the phenomenal drouth, gave great encouragement to mills in this section. Not only did these rains relieve the shortage of water that has handicaped many mills, but it also checked several destructive forest fires and stopped the dying of timber that has been a cause of concern to many timber owners. There is undoubtedly a better tone to the market all around than was in evidence two or three weeks ago, even though this tone may be based largely on faith rather than on any immediately tangible evidence of any greatly improved conditions.

Hardwood manufacturers report continued improvement in the market situation. Not only is the volume of business considerably heavier, but prices of the staple items by a succession of minor revisions, appear established at higher levels. However, the resumption of mills heretofore idle seems to have arrested this upward price trend, although this has not detracted from the firmness of the lists. An exception to this is found in the better grades of red gum which are scarce enough to maintain ascending prices. The demand for oak is bringing forth a fairly heavy volume of orders at prices generally in line with the manufacturers' ideas. Poplar is another strong variety and lately has received considerable attention at hands of buyers, inasmuch as the market has reached its present position without the aid of orders for future needs.

Last week southern pine orders, as reflected by reports from 137 of the larger mills, were below the volume for the preceding period, business apparently continuing to be curtailed by the torrid weather. Shipments continue heavy, indicating that retailers are in immediate need of all material ordered. Production shows a still further slight decline, but was a trifle ahead of the reduced volume of orders. In some sections of the south manufacturers report a scarcity of labor of sufficient proportions to make an early increase in output improbable. Because of the extremely dry deather, cotton picking is further advanced than is customary at this time of the year, and has caused a defection from the ranks of woods crews. The manufacturers are entering the fall season with reserve stocks at the lowest point in months, notwithstanding there is every indication of a heavy demand during the next 60 days. This condition points to firm to higher prices. At present prices of the better grades have a noticeable upper tendency, while the lowers are holding their own with ease.

400 MEXICAN SARRIVE FOR COAHOMA PICKING

3,000 Expected in Fields Before October.

CLARKSDALE, Miss., Sept. 17.—With the invasion of approximately 400 cotton pickers from Texas into the Coahoma fields and hundreds en route to this vicinity either by motor or coming on special excursion trains that will reach this city Sunday, planters in this county believe the acute labor situation has been largely solved here. The first special train bearing Mexicans reached Clarksdale this morning at 10:30 o'clock. This was the last stop of the special and about 75 Mexicans left the coach here, 65 of whom were grown people. Approximately 1,000 white people and negroes were at the station this morning to view the unloading of the Mexicans.

They were brought to this city by J. R. Adams, planter, who turned the Mexicans over to Mrs. Oscar Baugh, who transported them by truck to the Baugh plantation west of Clarksdale. The pickers were accompanied by an American, Jack Allen, formerly a captain in the Texas Rangers, who will serve as interpreter and manager.

The same train that brought these Mexicans to Clarksdale unloaded between 300 and 400 at Cleveland and a carload at Shelby, Miss.

The Mexicans are a curiosity to the white people and they are especially interesting to the negroes, who view their arrival with misgiving, feeling that their sway over the cotton fields of Coahoma for many years has been uprooted to a certain extent.

The Mexicans are viewing the cotton fields here with surprise after leaving their own baked crops that have been lain to waste. An evidence of the mammoth crop that prevails in this county is bourne out by the statement of two planters today, who said that it was almost impossible to tell where picking had taken place in the Coahoma County fields.

Big Crop Expected.

In discussing Coahoma's crop today C. G. Steele, county agent, estimated

the yield at between 90,000 and 100,000 bales. He is basing this estimate on an 180,600 acreage, stating that approximately the yield this year, in his opinion, would reach 277 pounds of lint cotton to the acre. "If the weather is favorable for gathering the cotton before damaged by rain, I believe the crop will yield 100,000 bales," said Mr. Steele. "Rains, however, may cut it about 10,000 bales."

Mr. Steele is bourne out in this statement by several other planters of Coahoma County.

"Coahoma County has the best crop I have ever seen anywhere," said H. H. Hopson, financier and planter today. Mr. Hopson stated if the acreage equalled that of the maximum production in this county, he believed that this year's yield would surpass all others.

When asked about the labor situation, Mr. Hopson stated he did not contemplate bringing in Mexicans to assist in his crop. He stated he would utilize local labor and those on his own plantation. "If 1,500 planters reach this county in the next few days, this will practically solve the labor problem in this county," said Mr. Hopson. He also declared that the Mexicans by coming to Clarksdale had learned the way and this would materially aid in securing labor in years to come.

Mr. Adams of Claremont in discussing the ability of the Mexicans to pick cotton, said today that one on his place was in the field less than an hour and picked 90 pounds in this length of time.

Mr. Steele, county agent, stated today that by the first of October he believed that 3,000 Mexican laborers would have been imported to this vicinity.

In bringing this labor to Coahoma County Richard Smith, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, has received hearty co-operation from T. L. Jennings of the Southern Pacific in Memphis and I. C. Bouchard, also of the Bluff City. In a wire to Mr. Smith today, Mr. Bouchard stated if planters from this section contemplating going to Texas for labor, would furnish him their names, they would be met upon arrival and a representative of the railroad assist them in securing labor.

Mr. Smith was also in receipt of a wire from the Howard Employment Service Bureau at Kansas City, Kan., stating that plenty of white and negro labor was available there.

The early picking of the Coahoma County cotton crop hos broken all previous records here. Receipts in cotton and ginnings in the county have trebled the same period last year. As a result business has received an impetus here during the past two weeks never before witnessed since the pre-war days. Optimism prevails in business circles and planters who have been laboring under a debt burden for the past four years as a result of deflation in land prices, expect to emerge from their financial depression this season.

PICKERS ARE NEEDED.

N. D. Rasberry Leaves for Texas to Hire 150 Mexicans.

JONESTOWN, Miss., Sept. 18.—The planters here held a meeting last night for the purpose of obtaining 150 or more Mexican cotton pickers from San Antonio, Texas, and surrounding country. N. D. Rasberry will leave tonight for San Antonio, offering them $1.00 per hundred pounds and free transportation. The shortage of labor is this section. Several farms have already produced a bale and a half to the acre and many fields which have already been picked over are said to be whiter than before picking began.

The Coahoma farmers are not praying for rain, but earnestly praying that no high winds hit this section.

The price for breakfast has been from $1.50 to $2, transportation freely offered and sometimes dinner being included.

TWENTY BALES A DAY.

Cotton Picker Which Is Expected to Solve the Delta's Problem.

CLARKSDALE, Miss., Sept. 10.—The cotton picking machine that is being tested in the Delta will ultimately solve the southern cotton farmers' problem in saving of time and money, is the opinion of County Agent C. G. Steele, H. R. Smith, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, and Charley Bobo, prominent planter, who yesterday made a trip to the Delta experiment station at Stoneville and viewed the workings of the machine. At the present there are a few more details to be worked to perfection. Its mechanism is most complete and it seems to do everything that is expected of it. It has just been reconstructed and the adjustments are not entirely accurate, but it picked cotton and this sight was pleasing to the many spectators.

The machine, according to these men, travels by its own power. It is so constructed as to straddle the row, take one row at each trip. Two upright cylinders are equipped with long steel fingers. As the machine moves these cylinders whirl around and the steel fingers close in and gather the cotton. At short intervals the cylinders reverse and unload, the cotton being forced through suction pipes into long sacks which drag along the rear. The cylinders are far enough apart not to injure the plant. Traveling at the rate of a tractor, the machine can gather 20 bales per day.

The inventor has spent $20,000 in constructing and perfecting this machine, which he feels has solved the labor problem in the cotton field and more money will be expended on improvements.

Two hundred and fifty planters from the Delta section saw the demonstration and discussed its possibilities.

Dr. Walker, president of the A. & M. College, gave a summary of the college and its work during its 45 years of service. He made an optimistic talk on Delta conditions. Congressman W. M. Whittington also made an address.

The Red Cross served lunch and cold drinks.

MEXICANS ARRIVE.

Many Auto Loads Going North Pass Through Yazoo City.

YAZOO CITY, Miss., Sept. 18.—Many automobile loads of Mexicans who are going from their homes in Texas to the northern part of the delta around Belzoni, Greenwood and Clarksdale, to assist in the picking of the cotton crop, are passing through Yazoo City. Thus far [illegible] stayed in Yazoo County, though some of the planters of this vicinity intend to try them out.

Yesterday some 30 to 40 auto loads of them traveling in a kind of a unit paused in the town to get their midday meal. The cavalcade was on its way to Belzoni.

Yazoo County is in good shape for labor, and though the cotton crop here is excellent, it is probable that it can be picked by the labor on hand and to which the people are accustomed. Much of the cotton opened early, and in some places the picking season is already over. These pickers are of course seeking work in other nearby spots.

400 NEGROES ARRIVE FOR POINTS IN DELTA

Very Few Show Disposition to Pick Cotton.

CLARKSDALE, Miss., Sept. 20.—Two excursion trains reaching Clarksdale about noon today and bringing approximately [illegible] from St. Louis and Chicago proved disappointing to the planters of this section, who had hoped that this number would help relieve the labor shortage in Coahoma County in gathering one of the largest cotton crops in history.

However, the negroes apparently had not come to the south to pick cotton, but rather to avail themselves of excursion rates to visit relatives or for pleasure while in the south.

Scores of planters and several hundred spectators were at the station when the trains pulled in. Most of those who accosted the negroes were met with the remark that they would "look around a little" before engaging in picking cotton. The majority of the negroes were well dressed and "they don't look like cotton pickers," was the version of most of the planters.

About 400 left the trains here. Others were going to Greenville, Greenwood and other points in the delta.

According to information gained by a Commercial Appeal reporter, approximately 20,000 bales of cotton have been ginned in Coahoma County. Last year at this date about 3,000 had been ginned.

With 85 per cent of the crop now open, planters believe that with the labor shortage it will be impossible to pick the entire crop before Jan. 1.

COAHOMA PLANTERS LIMIT PRICE OF LABOR

Agree Not to Pay Over $1.25 for Picking.

CLARKSDALE, Miss., Sept. 3.—At a meeting of 100 representative farmers from all sections of Coahoma at the Chamber of Commerce at 3 o'clock here this afternoon the Farmers' Protective Association of Coahoma County was organized by selecting R. L. Ralston of Coahoma, president, and A. J. Simmons, secretary. The object of this organization is to protect the planters against prohibitive prices which have been paid in Coahoma and other counties for cotton picking during the present season. Those present attached their names to an agreement, testifying they would not pay in excess of [illegible] pounds for cotton picking in Coahoma during the 1925-1926 season.

A movement was also launched to take immediate steps toward prosecution of agents and planters from other counties who come into this county to secure labor, many of whom are said to have offered prices as high as $1.75 per hundred pounds and in some instances this price with board is said to have been offered. It was the concensus of opinion of those present that unless immediate steps were taken to curtail the soaring price being offered cotton pickers, that share-cropping in the county would be menaced for another year and that the share-croppers would refuse to again sign a contract, stating they could make more money by picking cotton as individual laborers.

A committee on membership, the duty of which will be to get the signatures of planters who were not present at the meeting today, was appointed. This committee is composed of W. K. Herrin, Sr., R. M. Coleman, Syd Dodds, A. J. Simmons, Charley Bobo. Another committee, composed of J. W. McNair, E. L. Anderson, Garner Johnson and W. K. Herrin, was appointed to see the bankers of the county, asking them to pledge themselves against furnishing any planter who paid over $1.25 per hundred pounds for cotton picking.

According to several of the farmers present, this was the largest gathering of representative planters, ginners and bankers ever held in this county to discuss agricultural problems.

The call for the meeting was issued by J. W. Cutrer, lawyer and also a planter of extensive interests in Coahoma. Mr. Cutrer stated the purpose of the meeting and R. L. Ralston was made temporary president and Richard Smith, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, was made temporary secretary.

In opening the meeting, Mr. Cutrer stated the farmers of Coahoma County were facing a critical period. He declared it really required 14 months to make a cotton crop and that the farmers must secure a fair return for the cost of operation or they would become bankrupt this season. "We can't afford to pay out all we have made this season for cotton picking," he said. "However, we want to treat our labor fair and pay a reasonable and fair price for services rendered."

The discussion then arose whether or not the price for cotton picking should be fixed at $1 or $1.25 maximum. Many of the planters stated they had not exceeded the price of $1 this season, but others testified that $1.50 and in some instances $1.75 was being paid. It was then agreed that $1.25 maximum per hundred pounds would be fair and reasonable.

A warning will be issued the planters of other counties who come to this section and offer prohibitive prices for cotton picking. "If they cannot be handled through legal channels there are other methods that will prove effective," said one man and he received hearty approval.

A grievance committee will be appointed to report any violations of those who have signed the pledge. This committee will be named within the next few hours by the president. The organization voted to publish the names of those farmers who signed the pledge and then violated same.

Posters will be printed and placarded throughout the city and county announcing that the maximum price is $1.25.

J. W. McNair declared that the planters here were the laughing stock of some of the negroes who are holding out for exhorbitant prices. Every morning scores of trucks are seen in the New World, the negro district, gathering up labor for the day's picking. Hehetofore, the planter offering the highest price could quickly secure a truck load. Sometimes, it was stated after the truck was loaded, another planters would come along, raise the price and immediately the negroes would "fall off one truck on to another," going with the highest bidder.

The price of the maximum of $1.25 will be put in effect Friday morning, Sept. 4.

Clarksdale, Miss Register 9-12-25

NOW IS TIME TO BRING BACK SOUTH'S NEGROES

Judge J. M. Dickinson Tells How This May Be Accomplished Through Letters.

In a letter to the cotton planters of the Mississippi Delta, Judge Jacob M. Dickinson of Roundaway and Chicago, tells how colored labor may be retained in this section. His letter follows:

"Conditions that are obvious to all thinking people indicate that now is the most favorable time we have ever had to bring about negro remigration to the Delta. If every cotton planter will at once get the negroes on his place to write the negroes they know, who have gone North, telling of the great cotton crop, the improvement in schools and present protection to lives and property, it may cause many to return.

"Especially is this true if such correspondence will lead to advancements for their expenses. The way to do this is to give immediate facilities for writing, furnishing a room, table, ink, stationery and postage stamps. The negroes should write their own letters in their own way. The time to act is now and not when it will do no good."

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Labor Conditions.

Missouri

WHITE FARMER JAILED FOR DRIVING NEGROES FROM COTTON FIELDS

Preston News Service.

POPLAR BLUFF, Mo., Jan. 21.—An unusual case came before Circuit Court Judge Ferguson last Thursday when John Manskier, a white farmer living near here was arraigned on the charge of attempting to drive Negroes away from the cotton fields near his home. The real motive behind Manskier's actions in this connection could not be definitely learned. He was convicted, fined $25 and given a jail sentence by Judge Ferguson.

CALLING FOR COTTON PICKERS.

POPLAR BLUFF, Mo., Aug. 28.—The office of the secretary of the Chamber of Commerce here, has been converted into a cotton employment bureau at the start of the cotton picking season. Secretary Case, knowing the demand for pickers in this and Stoddard County, sounded the call for pickers and for three days has been busy assigning them to cotton plantations where the need is greatest.

Want Cotton Pickers In Sikeston District

SIKESTON, Mo., Sept. 18.—Farmers in the Sikeston district are making preparations to bring in 1,500 cotton pickers to pick out the record cotton crops in several years. The average price for picking cotton is $1.50 per 100 pounds. Several hundred negroes have been brought in from Memphis, Mo., and Cairo were yesterday at $9.35 per 100.

MISSOURI RACE ROW PROBED

Federal Officials Investigate Reports of Intimidation of Negroes

St. Louis, Aug. 14 (AP).—Assistant District Attorney Stattler announced that Department of Justice agents probably will be sent to Bragg City, Mo., to investigate reports that negroes are being threatened and intimidated.

Letters and telegrams have been received stating that negro house at Bragg City were dynamited recently and negro children injured. It was said the Sheriff had not investigated. Stattler indicated the disturbances were caused by efforts to drive cheap negro labor from the section before cotton picking begins.

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Peonage (Texas)

Paid 480 Per Cent Interest and Still Owed Principal

FORT WORTH, Texas, April 10.—Emil Johnson, an aged Pullman porter, borrowed $20 about six months ago from a loan company of this city. He paid $4 twice a month with interest on the loan. He paid and he paid, but still he did not seem to ever be getting out of debt.

In desperation he asked some of his more intelligent friends "how come?" When the friends got through figuring up what interest the company was exacting from Johnson they found that it totaled 480 per cent. Johnson had paid about $60 and the loan company still insisted that he owed the $20 principal.

District Judge Terrell Saturday granted an injunction against the grasping loan sharks to exact further financial donations from the aged man.